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20 March 1978

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MAR 2 7 1978

Item 850-8-8 PrEx 7.10: FBIS-SOV-78-54

Carter

FBIS-SOV-78-54
Monday
20 March 1978
Vol III No 54

DAILY REPORT

COMPLETED
ORIGINAL

SOVIET UNION

FROM BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Available for Distribution
From NTIS

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

(66)

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USSR ANNOYS CERTAIN WESTERNERS

LD171257Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[V. Matveyev article: "After the Belgrade Meeting"]

[Text] The results of the Belgrade meeting of representatives of the states which took part in the all-European conference have given rise to lively international comment.

Of course, it would be futile to expect a unified approach to the results of the Belgrade meeting on the part of different press organs and politicians. While a number of Western commentators reasonably point to the importance of the fact that those taking part in the Belgrade meeting affirmed their belief in the value of the Helsinki accords, other voices are also being heard in the bourgeois press. Their owners do not conceal their malice and annoyance at the fact that the final document of the Belgrade forum did not "reflect the principles" they wholeheartedly desired--principles aimed at justifying, under the banner of "humanitarian concerns," attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of sovereign states.

It is well known that the White House found nothing better to do than to voice its "disappointment" in this connection and to again make claims concerning the "legitimacy" of these attempts.

The USSR and the other socialist countries did not and will not deviate from principled, keen discussion of human rights. Comrade L.I. Brezhnev indicated this in his speech at the 1973 World Peace Congress in Moscow. But this discussion does not have and cannot have anything in common with what those circles in the West who are taking up arms against the detente process would like to achieve.

Many commentators rightly point out that because of the negative stance adopted above all by the U.S. delegation in Belgrade but also by its NATO partners, this forum was unable to record a point in its final document on the development and consolidation of military detente in Europe.

The Belgrade meeting has its own definite place in the general process of the implementation of what is enshrined in the Helsinki accords. And it was not assumed that it should elaborate any bulky document to "develop" the final act. A deepened exchange of opinions on a wide range of questions concerning the fulfillment of all the provisions of the Helsinki act was conducted in Belgrade.

All those who hold dear the cause of peace, good-neighborliness, and cooperation in Europe will seek with new energy a further fundamental improvement in the situation on the continent.

WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUNDTABLE'

LD192040 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 19 Mar 78 LD

["International Observers Roundtable" program presented by Anatoliy Potapov, political observer of Central Television and All-Union Radio; with Albert Grigoryants, IZVESTIYA foreign affairs editor; and Mikhail Lvov, radio commentator--recorded]

Disarmament Efforts

[Text] [Potapov] Good morning, comrades. There is one particularly important and urgent problem in international affairs at the moment. I have in mind the problem of limiting the arms race which has, literally, overwhelmed the world. The past week has again demonstrated the serious, principled attitude of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries to a reduction in the arms race.

At the Disarmament Committee, which is meeting in Geneva, the delegations of eight socialist countries put forward a draft convention banning the manufacture, accumulation, development and use of neutron weapons. One more step in the field of disarmament: Last Tuesday the Soviet Government approved and presented for ratification by the Supreme Soviet Presidium, the convention banning attempts to alter the natural environment for military or any other hostile purposes. This document was signed at Geneva in May last year by the representatives of 34 UN member-countries.

What else is being undertaken to solve the difficult and complicated task of military detente? The Soviet-American talks on a new agreement concerning the limitation of strategic offensive arms are in progress. Talks between 19 states concerning the reduction of armed forces and armaments in the central Europe continue in Vienna. A special session of the UN General Assembly concerning the disarmament problem is being prepared.

The world public is familiar with the Soviet proposals, for instance, to avert the danger of a nuclear war, to bring about nuclear disarmament, to stop nuclear arms' tests and others.

Today I would suggest that we discuss the following question: On what does the implementation of the numerous, topical urgent and pressing measures concerning the reduction of the arms race depend? How can they become a reality? To put it more succinctly: Where is the key to the success of a number of important talks on disarmament? Our radio commentator, Mikhail Lvov, is a specialist in the field of disarmament. I address this question to you, Mikhail Sergeyevich.

[Lvov] I'd put it this way: The key to the success of talks on the limitation of the arms race and on disarmennt is the political will of states to achieve this success. What, in this context, is meant by political will? It is the capability and readiness of states to adopt principled decisions to create conditions for serious talks, to remove obstacles that hamper the progress of talks underway, or, finally, to successfully complete such talks. At the same time, political will is not, of course, a synonym for readiness to agree to endless concessions. The talks on the limitation of the arms race center around questions which profoundly affect one of the most important aspects of the life of a state, its security. Any agreement at all in this field is possible only on the basis of strict observance of the principle of the equal security of sides.

As an example, I will take the talks concerning the banning of nuclear arms' tests. As a result of a number of constructive initiatives by the Soviet Union, it is now possible to overcome the greatest difficulty which has blocked these talks for many years, that is, to solve the question of control.

The talks have begun and have assumed a businesslike, practical nature. But, yet another problem has appeared: the question of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. It has been pointed out that should states reserve the right to conduct peaceful nuclear explosions, it will be impossible to guarantee that these tests would not be used to circumvent the agreement, to perfect arms. This argument is not an indisputable one, but it has material content.

On the other hand, the question of peaceful nuclear explosions is not a secondary question--it represents a whole direction in the development of productive forces; a whole direction, in the development of our civilization's future. It is necessary to decide whether one should insist that peaceful nuclear explosions be carried out limitlessly--and the effect on an agreement to ban the tests--or whether one should renounce forever the use of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes?

It is obvious that both these things are impossible. It is precisely here that the question of political will has arisen. We have made a proposal on a moratorium, for a certain period, on peaceful nuclear explosions, with a simultaneous complete ban on all nuclear arms tests. This proposal was presented on 2 November last year by Comrade Brezhnev, and the talks moved forward. At present they are proceeding on a very practical plane and, naturally, everyone is interested in their successful completion.

[Potapov] The manifestation of a political will is apparently particularly necessary at present, at such important talks as, let us say, the Soviet-American talks on limitation of strategic offensive arms.

[Lvov] Yes, of course. Everyone remembers the complications that arose at these talks at the beginning of last year, when the Americans attempted to invalidate the Vladivostok accord.

Great efforts were needed to return these talks back to a realistic track. The Soviet Union's consistent and constructive line, and certain elements of flexibility and realism manifested at that time by the United States, created the preconditions for solving the major remaining questions. The prospect for a successful completion to the talks was good; and, indeed, they proceeded intensively. Evidently the main concern now is that no one should create new obstacles, new difficulties, new problems for the completion of the talks. This is precisely where political will is needed.

[Potapov] Of course a political will is not the only factor securing the success of the talks. Realism in making proposals; due consideration in the proposals for the practical reality of the correlation of forces; and the professional, diplomatic and strategic qualifications of the direct participants in the talks are of significance. This all functions effectively when states have the political will for the success of disarmament talks.

[Grigoryants] In this context, it should be said that the psychological climate being created in the United States is not at all favorable for a level-headed and businesslike review of numerous questions of that country's foreign policy and, above all, the question of Soviet-American relations. The average American is being made to suffer from invented fears. He is being told that Soviet military might exceeds American strength; that, allegedly, the Soviet Union is not fulfilling the obligations it has assumed concerning the limitation of strategic arms; that any moment Soviet missiles might, through a sudden attack, put the U.S. nuclear arsenal out of action.

The notorious Committee on the Present Danger fans these fears with special zeal. A few days ago it stated that if the United States does not strengthen its arsenal of missiles, it will be forced to capitulate some time in the middle, or at the end of the eighties.

A fear of imaginary danger goes hand in hand with chauvinistic fever and bellicose moods. Half of all people asked believes that the United States should achieve military superiority over the Soviet Union. As we can see, it is possible to instill in a large number of Americans a scornfully arrogant attitude to the principle of equal security of both powers. In such a situation the Pentagon no longer experiences difficulties in pushing through Congress military budgets of many billions.

A few days ago, the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee made recommendations to bring the U.S. military budget for the next financial year up to $130 billion. Leading papers assert that none other than Defense Secretary Brown is of the opinion that the United States should be in a position to strike limited nuclear blows on industrial and military targets.

[Potapov] Well, just take President Carter's speech at Wake Forest University last Friday. He unfolded before his audience literally a complete program for a further arms race which he essentially contraposed with a further deepening of detente. It turns out--or so the President said--that the United States has recently completed an important reappraisal of its national military strategy. What is its core? From the President's speech it appears that, to the detriment of a negotiated solution of contentious issues, strategy will be based on a further modernization of weapons, on threats to the Soviet Union, on whipping up tension.

[Grigoryants] Attempts are again being made to justify all these dangerous and irresponsible plans and doctrines, by emphasizing the imaginary Soviet threat. Meanwhile, the lies about the Soviet Union's nonobservance of established agreements, or about its attempts to overtake the United States in armaments, are refuted by authoritative representatives and groups within the United States.

Our press has covered the special report prepared for Congress by the State Department, which states in black and white that the Soviet Union is strictly complying with the agreement on limiting strategic armaments. There have been no violations. Another piece of evidence is a report by Senator McGovern on the very same subject. McGovern stated that fear of the Soviet Union is founded on a hypothesis which directly contradicts the traditions, experience and behavior of the Soviet Union. These are the voices of reason! It is regrettable that they are being muffled by the militaristic and chauvinistic babble, which is being spurred on by the military-industrial complex and those circles whose policy is contrary to the vital interests of the United States.

[Lvov] In this connection one wonders whether the U.S. Government has sufficient genuine political will to pursue the negotiations on the limitation of strategic offensive armaments on an honest and fair basis. This is not quite clear at present: Reports from Washington that the talks might not be completed this year or that if they are finished, it will not be very soon, are perhaps not fortuitous. The idea is now spreading that, since mid-term congressional elections are scheduled for November 1978, President Carter may have to pay more attention to the disposition of political forces on the domestic scene, and that all this will slow down the negotiations on major international issues, especially the talks on the limitation of strategic offensive armaments. All this puts one on the alert and arouses alarm. The U.S. now bears a great responsibility for a successful conclusion of the negotiations. No one can or should forget this.

Neutron Bomb

[Potapov] From the whole complex of problems you have touched upon, Mikhail Sergeyevich, I should like to pick out one issue--neutron weapons. There are many signs that the United States is preparing very shortly to commence production of this truly barbaric weapon. Certain irresponsible NATO personages are already attempting to prove the acceptability of a limited nuclear war with neutron weapons. The movement of protest is mounting everywhere against the Pentagon's plans. Indeed, today, Sunday, an authoritative international forum against neutron weapons is finishing its work in Amsterdam.

The United States is only concerned with creating favorable political conditions for the implementation of what it has conceived. In order to lull the vigilance of the public, it is resorting to unseemly ploys. One ploy is to announce the commencement of production of neutron weapons in the United States while simultaneously promising that their deployment in Western Europe will be postponed for some time. What calculations are behind this? First, circles on the other side of the ocean and their supporters in Western Europe want to gain time to brainwash the public and neutralize its protests and to convince the unsophisticated that neutron weapons are a useful deterrent. Second, the maneuvering by Western circles is designed to link a final decision on neutron weapons with other irrelevant issues, in other words to make the new weapon an instrument of blackmail and pressure in the negotiations with the Soviet Union.

[Lvov] Incidentally, at the Vienna talks on the reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe, representatives of the socialist countries have stressed that any attempts to somehow link a final decision on the matter of neutron weapons with other irrelevant issues, including the problems being considered in Vienna, are quite unacceptable for the socialist countries and can only complicate the achievement of agreement at the Vienna talks.

The most important concern in connection with the neutron weapons issue is that this is a new threshold in principle and quality similar to the atomic threshold in the 1940s and the thermonuclear threshold in the 1950s. If this threshold is passed, then what one side creates will also be created by the other side, and of course it will do so if it has to. The consequences of a race in neutron weapons may prove irrevocable. You see, neutron weapons are not restricted to any single specific system for any single task, say, on the battlefield. Inevitably, the entire spectrum of neutron weapons systems will be created which will become ramified and materialized in ever improved forms. This must be averted. There is still time.

Belgrade Results

[Potapov] When speaking here of the problem of reducing the arms race and the problem of disarmament, I think it is worthwhile to recall the following: why, for instance, the final document of the Belgrade meeting of representatives of the states participating in the all-European conference does not provide for military detente. Indeed, extensive proposals on this matter were submitted by the Soviet Union and other interesting proposals were submitted by other socialist countries and by neutral states, but there is no mention of military detente in the final document. One delegation is mainly to blame--the U.S. delegation. Goldberg, the American delegate, said outright at one of the meetings: I have no instructions to support any sort of proposals on the subject of military detente. Well, since at Belgrade any decision requires the unanimity of all delegations, the question of military detente remained outside the framework of the final document.

I conversed in the Belgrade Palace of Congresses with a representative of a Western country belonging to NATO--I shall not name him as our conversation was, as journalists put it, off the record--and I asked him outright why the United States will not agree to the inclusion in the final document of a meeting of military experts on strengthening measures of security and trust. The answer was that it is feared that the question of a ban on neutron weapons may be raised. There is one of the reasons.

Now certain Western personages are publicly expressing regret that the result of the Belgrade meeting has been allegedly disappointing, and that the meeting did not justify itself. What then is the reason for their disappointment? This question incidentally was put to the head of the Soviet delegation, Comrade Vorontsov, at a press conference he held in Moscow last Friday. He said that the people disappointed are those who attempted, but failed, to revise the final act of the all-European conference, who sought to amend it to legalize interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign state under the false watchword of "defense of human rights" and thus avoid discussing the path of detente and cardinal issues of European peace and security. Well, we are aware that this was really the aim of the United States at the meeting. These attempts were a total failure, the final act was defended from attacks, and this was a very important result of the Belgrade meeting, however disappointed those who wanted to use it for psychological warfare might be.

What, besides this, is the positive importance of the Belgrade meeting? This was the first time since the Helsinki conference that the representatives of the 35 states had met. This in itself, the very fact of their meeting, is important. They had an in-depth exchange of opinions, confirmed the political importance of the all-European conference and confirmed the determination of all 35 governments to carry out without exception all the provisions of the final act. The decisions of Helsinki are alive and in operation. This is the most important result. Well, it proved impossible to reach agreement on many matters, but, what of that; there will be other meetings and other opportunities. Detente is only at the start of its path. Let me say that meetings are scheduled for West Germany, Switzerland and Malta. Really this is, in effect, the many-sided mechanism of the process of detente. It is in operation and through it understandings have been achieved. This is yet another valuable outcome of the Belgrade meeting.

Israeli Invasion

Let us now go on to another event of the past week, a very grave event. Israel has again committed aggression against Lebanon and the situation in the Near East has again been exacerbated. What is the essence of the matter? I shall put that question to you, Albert Aramovich.

[Grigoryants] Everything points to the fact that the operation was prepared long ago on military, political and propaganda levels. Its main edge is directed against the PLO, which is one of the most steadfast fighters against Israeli aggression and for a just Near East settlement, which is inconceivable without the withdrawal of the aggressor from the lands occupied and the satisfaction of the legitimate rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including their right to the creation of their own state. The Israeli Knesset has declared a merciless war on the PLO, and Israeli aircraft have been razing Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

This is the way that imperialist and Zionist reaction is resolving the problem which it created. First, it expelled a whole people from its homeland, and now it is subjecting it to genocide. So, the aggression against Lebanon was prepared thoroughly and over a long time. Considerable forces--three tank brigades and large force of motorized infantry, artillery and rockets--had been brought up to the border. The operation was clearly planned in advance. The aggression against Lebanon was also scrupulously prepared on the diplomatic level.

Indeed, the United States was well posted about the intentions of the Israeli General Staff. U.S. Secretary of State Vance admitted that the United States received a message from Israeli Prime Minister Begin a short time before the beginning of the invasion. Earlier the administration's spokesmen had been denying that Israel had given the United States prior information about its plans to invade Lebanon. What is more, the State Department spokesman, to all intents and purposes, gave his blessing to Israel's action by saying that it would not create a serious problem in the Near East.

It is also surprising that Washington accepted Begin's decision to postpone his trip to the United States as a matter of course--as if to say: Mr Begin is busy; let's wait a bit. Also on the eve of the attack on Lebanon, Israeli Defense Minister Weizman paid a visit to America, and the reception he was given could not fail to encourage the Israeli extremists to commit further acts of aggression against the Arab countries. President Carter has approved military aid to Israel to the tune of $1 billion, out of which Israel will obtain the latest F-15 and F-16 aircraft and other hardware.

Symbolically, Israeli units transferred from the Sinai Peninsula took part in the attack. Obviously, Tel Aviv now has no fears for its southern positions. Cairo's separatist policy has played into Israel's hands insofar as it has helped split the Arab front, and is now permitting Israel to strike at will. Today, Lebanon and the Palestinians have been the victims, but who will it be tomorrow? Cairo's stance during the crisis itself was noteworthy: The Egyptian president anathematized the Palestinian partisans a few hours before the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. In so doing, he virtually assented to that invasion of Lebanon. At the same time, international observers are pointing out that the policy of conniving with the aggressor, the policy of concessions, is merely hardening his attitude. All the newspapers are writing that the latest action against Lebanon has made Israel's stance even more implacable. So a resolution of the Near East conflict has become even more difficult.

[Potapov] But an interesting aspect, Albert Aramovich, is Israel's diplomatic defeat. For Tel Aviv asked all countries to close down the PLO missions, and not a single country has done so. On the contrary, there are countries, including many Western countries, which have refused to do so.

[Grigoryants] The Soviet Union's position is clear and consistent. As the TASS statement says, the Soviet Union roundly condemns the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, and calls on all to whom peace is dear to unite their efforts to obtain a cessation of the Israeli aggression and an immediate withdrawal of its forces from Lebanese territory.

Horn of Africa

[Potapov] Washington tried very hard during As-Sadat's separatist talks with Begin to depict itself as a Near East peacemaker in the eyes of public opinion. The American administration is now trying to paint exactly the same false picture of itself as a peacemaker in the latest events in the Horn of Africa. Some Washington leaders have claimed that Somalia withdrew its forces from the Ogaden only because of the insistent U.S. requests and diplomatic initiative. This is in complete contradiction to the truth, which is this: The Somali Government did not just suddenly withdraw its forces from Ethiopia, but was forced to do so.

What happened was in essence an effective rebuff to the aggressor, an Ethiopian counterstrike. The young republic's army withstood the test and managed to defeat the aggression, thanks to support from its true friends. Ethiopian Foreign Minister Feleke Gedle-Giorgis last week expressed his government's gratitude to all the socialist countries and especially the Soviet Union, he said, for the aid they have given and are giving Ethiopia at a critical point in its history. Socialist solidarity, he emphasized, has yet again demonstrated its effectiveness by preventing the defeat of the Ethiopian revolution. That is the essence of the matter.

When Somali forces occupied part of Ethiopia, the United States was in no hurry to bring pressure to bear on the Mogadiscio government. Who supplied the aggressor with offensive weapons via Third World countries? Washington--and that's a fact! Who helped the victim of aggression, proceeding from the principles of its foreign policy? The Soviet Union, the socialist countries. So in the eyes of African and world public opinion, America's foreign policy looks indecent; hence the propaganda attempts to show the U.S. peace-making efforts.

Indian Ocean Talks

By the way, Washington has made a completely unjustified attempt to tie the Horn of Africa events to the resolution of important problems of international peace and security--for example, the strategic offensive arms limitation talks which we were discussing here, or the problem of military activity in the Indian Ocean. The American press has written that the Soviet-American talks on that issue were broken off over the events in the Horn of Africa. But what is the current status of the talks? Are they in progress or have they been broken off?

[Lvov] The talks on the Indian Ocean are conducted in rounds of 1 or 2 weeks, between which there are recesses of 1 or 2 months: There is now a recess. After the February round, the sides published a communique which stated that the talks would be resumed at a time on which the sides were to agree. Thus there is nothing abnormal: It now appears possible to reach an agreement on the freezing of the U.S. and Soviet military presence in the Indian Ocean at its present level, and on subsequent negotiations on a considerable reduction in that level. From sources close to the UN special committee for the Indian Ocean, which receives information from both sides on the progress of the talks, we know that during that February round, a drafting group and working groups of experts were set up, and a start was made on the formulation of the text of a reciprocal accomodation: The first agreed formulae have appeared. Things would appear to be going quite well.

But, here you are right, Anatoliy Georgiyevich; even during the February round there were statements from the American side that success at the Indian Ocean talks could, as they put it, hardly be expected in view of the Horn of Africa events. In reality, these issues are not linked. The progress in the February round was achieved while those events were taking place in the Horn of Africa, and the progress has turned out to be substantial. Consequently, all this is unfounded, untrue. Negotiations can continue at the same natural pace at which they were conducted to date. But whether they will continue depends on the answer to that same question I have already posed several times today--Will the United States have sufficient political will for a successful conclusion of the talks on this major issue? The Soviet Union does have the political will to secure the peace and security of the Indian Ocean region, where one-fourth of mankind lives. The Soviet Union will continue to demonstrate that political will.

French Elections

[Potapov] We end with another event which is taking place, right now in France. The second round of the parliamentary elections is in progress--the decisive round, which will answer the question of who will have the majority in the French National Assembly: The former government majority or the opposition--the union of leftwing forces which includes the Communists, the Socialists and the Left radicals. The winning of the elections will allow one or the other of the political blocs to attempt to form a new French Government. Well the results will be known in a few hours. Political observers say that the outcome of this very important electoral battle in France is completely impossible to predict. Only one thing is clear: The upshot of the present elections will exert a vast influence on France's entire political future.

On that we end our discussion by international observers at the round table. Thank you for listening to our broadcast, comrades: All the best.

UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ADOPTS 'PRINCIPLED' DECISIONS

LD171047Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[Igor Melnikov commentary: "For Human Rights"]

[Text] Geneva--The annual session of the UN Commission on Human Rights has completed its work in Geneva. Despite the inconsistent and at times negative position of a number of Western states, local observers note, the commission was able to secure the adoption of principled decisions on fundamental problems. The opponents of detente, who exerted pressure on the session in order to sidetrack the discussion on human rights into the cold war impasse, suffered a patent defeat. The actions of the apologists of bourgeois "democracy" did not receive the support of the majority of the session's participants.

In this sense the discussion of questions connected with the implementation of economic, social, and cultural human rights was significant. Many of the delegates noted that the wealthy sections of Western society regard the realization of the social demands of the working people as a threat to their wealth and privileges, and that violations of the labor rights of citizens in the capitalist countries occur on a massive scale.

The session's agenda covered more than 30 items. The resolution adopted by the commission discussing the aggressive policy of Israel and expressing deep anxiety over the continued worsening of the situation of the people in the occupied Arab territories generated a widespread response. In a separate resolution, the delegates affirmed that the Palestinian people have been deprived of their inalienable rights and points out that they have a right to reestablish these rights in accordance with the aims and principles of the UN Charter. Having examined the report of a working group for the investigation of violations of human rights in Chile, the session confirmed that the Chilean people, as before, are suffering because of the junta's excesses.

The commission called upon states to implement the UN resolution on granting rights of self-determination to people under colonial domination or foreign occupation. The resolution adopted on this question condemns the policy of countries maintaining relations with the racist regimes in south Africa and in other regions. It is characteristic that only three delegations--the United States, Britain and France--voted against this document.

As the representatives of the Soviet Union and the other socialist states noted at the session, the arms race and the development of such sophisticated means of mass annihilation as the neutron bomb are evoking serious anxiety among the people of the world. Behind these actions on the part of the capitalist powers lurks a direct threat to the most important of human rights--the right to life. Therefore, the struggle against the arms race is now becoming the main field in the struggle for human rights.

UNSC RESOLUTION CONDEMNS RHODESIAN ATTACKS ON ZAMBIA

LD172138Y Moscow TASS in English 2007 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD

[Text] New York March 17 TASS--The U.N. Security Council today unanimously passed a resolution, tabled by independent African and non-aligned states, which denounces south Rhodesian racists' armed provocation against the sovereign republic of Zambia.

This provocation is a gross violation of Zambia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, the resolution stresses. The Security Council reaffirmed once again that firm prerequisites for elimination of tension and attaining peace and security in that area will arise only when the apartheid system is abolished in the south of Africa and Zimbabwe and Namibia are fully liberated.

The members of the Security Council qualified the provocative aggressive actions of the illegal Smith regime as a threat to peace and security not only for this area, but also for the whole of Africa and the world. They expressed solidarity with the Republic of Zambia and the people of Zimbabwe in their just and legitimate struggle against armed provocations on the part of Rhodesian troops. The Security Council pledged firm support of the Zimbabwe people in their just and legitimate struggle for freedom and independence.

INTERNATIONAL FORUM AGAINST NEUTRON BOMB ISSUES STATEMENT

LD191519Y Moscow TASS in English 1438 GMT 19 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Amsterdam, March 19, TASS--An international forum against the neutron bomb concluded here by adopting the address to peoples and governments of all countries. Taking part in the forum were over 1,500 people--political, public and religious figures, activists of the youth movement, war veterans, scientists, workers, students.

The forum's delegates, representatives of nearly 30 countries, participants in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, expressed in their speeches, wrathful protests against the United States' intention to start the production of the new type of barbarous weapon of mass destruction, the neutron bomb, against the bomb's deployment in Western Europe. All speakers stressed that production of neutron weapons will lead to the heightening of tensions in international relations, to the stepping up of the arms race.

We call on everybody who feels responsible for the destinies of mankind, the document says. We believe it is time to ask ourselves if the world should advance along the road of production of ever more horrible nuclear armaments threatening life and future of millions of people. We, participants in the international forum, delegates from European countries, the United States and Canada raise our voice to bring about the change the present state of affairs. It is now important to concentrate all efforts in the struggle against new threats, the document says.

Pointing to concern all over the world in connection with the Pentagon's plans to start the production of the neutron bomb, representatives of peaceful public declare: The neutron bomb is an extremely cruel weapon meant expressly for annihilation of humans. We urge the governments to realize the danger and to respond in all seriousness to a wide protest movement that swept many countries. It testifies to the resolve to save the world from a nuclear war which might be brought closer if the neutron bomb is accepted for armament. It is necessary to reject any intention to produce the neutron bomb. Our countries must not agree to the deployment of this weapon in their territories.

We urge everybody to make initiatives and to do everything to protect the life and our future from the danger resulting from new intensification of the race of nuclear arms which no doubt would result from armament with the neutron bomb, the address to peoples and governments of all countries says in conclusion.

CARTER SPEECH DEPARTURE FROM SOLUTION TO URGENT PROBLEMS

LD180544Y Moscow TASS in English 0531 GMT 18 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 27, TASS--President James Carter of the United States, in an address at Wake Forest University, North Carolina, spoke about a "major reassessment" by the current administration of the United States' military strategy. In his speech he repeated some past remarks to the effect that the U.S. seeks to avert nuclear war, strives for cooperation with the Soviet Union and other countries in the matter of reducing tension. At the same time James Carter's speech contains a number of elements which cause apprehension for they are obviously incompatible with those remarks.

From the essence of the President's speech it follows that the speech actually means a shift of emphasis in American foreign policy from the earlier proclaimed course towards ensuring national security of the U.S. through negotiatons, through limiting the arms race and deepening detente, to a course of threats and build-up of tension.

James Carter spoke of deploying a whole number of the latest systems of strategic and conventional armaments. We have under construction, the President said, new Trident submarines equipped with ballistic missiles. He stated that he ordered rapid development and deployment of cruise missiles to reinforce the strategic value of American bombers. At the same time work is under way on the MX intercontinental ballistic missile and a Trident II submarine-launched ballistic missile. "I shall not hesitate to take actions for full-scale development and deployment of these systems", James Carter stated.

To justify this course the President resorted to the worn-out theses about a "Soviet military threat" and alleged also that the USSR interferes in local conflicts. Grossly distorting the Soviet Union's policy, James Carter said that the USSR shows "an inclination to interfere" in African countries.

It is well known that the Soviet Union does not seek unilateral advantages. In its policy it does not seek any benefits for itself anywhere--either in Africa, or in the Middle East, where Israel, with U.S. encouragement, has occupied part of the territory of still another sovereign Arab state. The USSR upholds the sovereignty, national independence and freedom of the peoples, strives for the hotbeds of tension to be quenched by peaceful means on the basis of observing the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries and the renunciation of recarving already existing borders. Attempts are being made to distort this principled position of the Soviet Union in order to cover up imperialist interference in these and other parts of the world.

The maturity of a political course is determined by how much it corresponds to the real interests of the countries and peoples, to the needs of ensuring security and peace. These interests demand an end to the arms race, an elimination of hotbeds of tension, a deepening of the detente process, the creation of peaceful conditions for the life of the peoples. Unfortunately, James Carter's speech is testimony to a departure from the solution of these real and vital problems.

Attends Naval Exercises

LD181734Y Moscow TASS in English 1703 GMT 18 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, March 18, TASS--Immediately after speaking at Wake Forest, the United States President James Carter attended naval exercises which were held near the coast of Georgia with a view to demonstrating American "striking power".

President was on board the recently launched nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Eisenhower. As the press points out, the aim of the exercises was to show in action newest types of armaments which will be used--to repel a "Soviet attack".

American television commentators who covered the exercises pointed out that U.S. military circles decided to avail themselves of the President's presence at the exercise in order to win his support for the plans to further expand the programme of construction of nuclear-powered aircraft carriers of Eisenhower type. In the coming weeks the White House is to adopt a decision concerning the construction of new, big nuclear-powered aircraft carriers.

U.S. HOPES OF ACHIEVING SUPERIORITY THROUGH SALT ILLUSORY

LD190235Y Moscow in English to North America 2230 GMT 18 Mar 78 LD

[Valentin Zorin commentary]

[Text] The American media appear to be stepping up their campaign to raise doubts in the public mind about the wisdom of signing SALT-II at an early date. The campaign is being pushed by organizations like the Committee on the Present Danger, by retired generals and admirals and even by some Washington officials. There is every indication one hand is guiding it. Apparently the groups whose incomes depend on Defense Department contracts dislike the prospect of a smaller arms program, and this would be the natural corollary of a strategic arms limitation agreement. All the statistics these groups supply to the public are intended to show that any agreement would be a disadvantage to the United States.

I won't elaborate on the arguments used by the opponents of an agreement. I've answered them in more than one broadcast. This time I wish to call attention to something else. A strategic arms limitation agreement became a possibility when the United States and the Soviet Union recognized two essential facts. First, that they reached a balance in strategic arms potential, and second, that an agreement must rest on the principle of like security. Recognition of these two facts make it possible to first consolidate the present state of things and then begin lowering national missile potentials.

The problem is not one that can be solved at one stroke. When SALT-II is signed, it won't be the end of talks. Preparations will begin for still more comprehensive measures to limit and cut back strategic arms. What SALT-II must do is fortify the present situation, a situation in which neither side has advantages over the other. But it looks as if this is not to the liking of some groups in the United States. Every effort is made to depart from the understanding reached at Vladivostok and saddle the Soviet Union with conditions that would upset the balance by giving advantage to the United States.

There are two alternatives: Either the two sides will reach agreement and thereby clear the way for a constructive trend in relations, or they won't and the situation will return to what it was a few years ago--pregnant with the danger of a still faster arms race. I said alternatives, but in reality there is no alternative to an agreement. If the United States insists on trying to get advantages it will have to lay out more billions of dollars and even so will never achieve military superiority. The years since the war should make this obvious. Immediately after the war Washington officialdom believed it had a lasting monopoly on the atom bomb. The public was assured the Soviet Union would not be able to equip itself with nuclear weapons for years to come. Needless to say the Soviet Union did equip itself and quite soon. Later administrations in Washington staked everything on the American bases around the world and then on new weapons. More and more money was taken out of the taxpayers' pockets, but finally American officials had to recognize there was no hope of reducing the Soviet Union to a second rate power.

Now there seem to be some illusions about the neutron weapon giving the United States an edge on the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union objects vigorously to letting this weapon go into production. It has proposed an international ban. But one would have to lose all sense of reality to think the Soviet Union will allow anyone to achieve military superiority over it with the neutron bomb or any other weapon. It has both the research potential and the industrial potential to forestall this. The United States will never be able to put itself in a superior position.

As for the Soviet Union, it has never sought superiority. There have been claims that at the talks in Geneva the Soviet Union is trying to maneuver itself into a position that would allow it to deliver a disarming nuclear strike. This is nonsense. Nothing in the Soviet Union's foreign policy supports such a claim. The Soviet Union is consistently dedicated to peace. Our efforts, says President Brezhnev, have the one aim of preventing things from going as far as the first strike or the second strike or a nuclear war in general. Our approach is this: The Soviet Union's defense potential must be such that no one will risk upsetting our life of peace. Our objective, says the Soviet leader, is not to achieve superiority in arms but to reduce arms and ease the military confrontation.

'INCONSISTENT' U.S. POSITION ON SALT ENCOURAGES HAWKS

LD181114Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1555 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD

["Against Reason"--TASS headline]

[Text] Washington, 17 March, TASS--The inconsistent position of the U.S. administration on the question of limiting strategic offensive weapons encourages American hawks protesting against military detente. The attempts of certain U.S. Government representatives to make the possibility of concluding a new Soviet-American agreement dependent on other, unrelated problems only adds coals to the fire of the opponents of an accord with the USSR. This is demonstrated by the statements on foreign policy made by a number of leading figures in the so-called Committee on the Present Danger, which leads the crusade of American reaction against any joint steps by the United States and the USSR in limiting strategic offensive weapons.

"If the United States does not renew the nuclear arms race with Russia," representatives of this committee forecast gloomily, "it might have catastrophic consequences." The hawks frighten the Americans with the "growing military might" of the Soviet Union, trying to prove that in order to "restore the balance of forces, the United States must improve its strategic deterrents, and in particular, commence production of the neutron bomb." In the opinion of the Committee on the Present Danger, there can be no question of any kind of military detente between the USSR and the United States.

The statements of those active in this committee, which smack of overt instigation, have received a kind of rebuff in articles in the American press itself. The Washington POST has carried an article by the well-known observer J. Kraft in support of the early conclusion of a new Soviet-American agreement on the limitation of strategic arms. Kraft writes that the hawks in the United States are hoping to block the early conclusion of a new treaty with the Soviet Union on the limitation of strategic arms. But they are mistaken. The new agreement is of enormous significance for relations between two of the biggest world powers--the USSR and United States. The conclusion of this agreement will leave the door open for further arms limitation and for the development of political cooperation. If a new agreement is not achieved, he stresses, then the arms race will grow considerably.

The Washington POST notes that the USSR, in its turn, is doing everything for the successful progress of the talks. The paper writes that "at the talks in Geneva the Russians displayed flexibility and readiness for the agreement. After the decisive progress achieved last autumn, the Soviet Union put forward initiatives on a whole range of questions." The paper expresses the conviction that a new Soviet-American agreement on the limitation of strategic offensive weapons could be reached in the next few months.

LAIRD ARTICLE ON SOVIET SALT CHEATING MISLEADS AMERICANS

LD171427Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Mar 78 Morning Edition p 3 LD

[Article by IZVESTIYA political commentator S. Kondrashov: "Mr Laird Is Cheating"]

[Text] It is well known that public opinion polls are a widespread phenomenon in the United States; neither a trader who is introducing a new commodity nor a politician who is seeking elective office or the approval of the electorate for his position will dare take any step without the public opinion polls. The results of public opinion surveys are flaunted as the spontaneous voice of the people--they are flaunted, of course, only by those whom it suits. But very often this alleged spontaneous voice merely echoes the whispers from the prompter's box, where the refined and cynical manipulators of public moods and predilections are seated. The voice of the people, which they pass off as a mandate from the people, proves to be merely an echo, merely a response generated by propaganda conditioning. In this sense the vaunted polls perhaps indicate more frequently the degree to which Americans are misinformed than the degree to which they are well informed.

A recent example lies in the data from a poll carried out by the Princeton Research Corporation. Referring to this, commentators Evans and Novak write about the "sharp intensification of public anxiety over Soviet military might," and, with the satisfaction of reapers viewing an abundant crop, they note the anti-Soviet fears and suspicions on which they and their colleagues have labored so hard. So what, strictly speaking, is gladdening these reapers? The fact that the ordinary American whom they have conditioned, has, in maturing, come around to the idea of an even greater increase in military spending and has rid himself of the "post-Vietnam syndrome of small-scale spending for military needs." Some 48 percent of those questioned believe that the United States must "insure for itself superiority" in military strength over the Soviet Union, and they are thereby obviously expressing disagreement with the principle of equal security of the two nuclear missile powers, which lies at the basis of detente and of the search for paths toward arms limitation. Of them, "74 percent favor increased taxation" and "expressed a readiness to set aside up to $10 billion annually for new military programs in order to insure this superiority, despite the revolt against taxation which has gripped the entire country."

This passion for self-sacrifice against the overall background of economy and thrift is described as a "striking fact" by the two commentators. It is indeed a striking fact: The degree to which the ordinary American has been intimidated if he is not averse to loosening his purse-strings voluntarily. No less striking is another fact which is also reported by Evans and Novak, rubbing their hands with pleasure: "As far as the present SALT talks with the Russians are concerned, the public opinion survey showed that in the opinion of 64 percent, the Russians will not 'fulfill' their part of the agreement' if a new accord is reached. This patently reflects the present lackluster state of detente."

It is worth treating these figures more seriously. Supporters of record military budgets and of a tough policy toward the Soviet Union brandish them like a sling, and it is not easy for their sober-minded compatriots to parry this whistling sling. Therefore let us ask ourselves this question: Where do these figures come from, particularly the last one, which "in the voice of the people" casts doubt on the need for and the effectiveness of the U.S.-Soviet agreements on very important questions of international life? We will reply: Of course, not on the basis of accurate knowledge of the facts and circumstances. They are all fruits of the actions of manipulators of policy and propaganda. It is all the mechanics of forming anti-Soviet fears, and exploitation of the inexperience and rank ignorance of many Americans.

Here is a striking example which helps us understand the source of these impressive figures. A recent issue of READER'S DIGEST, which has a circulation of approximately 20 million copies, contains an article by the reverend Mr Melvin Laird, former congressman and former U.S. defense secretary under Nixon and Ford. Its title takes the bull by the horns U.S.-style: "Arms Control--The Russians are Cheating!" With, as you see, an exclamation mark. The article tells how in 1972, Mr Laird participated in the preparation and conclusion with the Soviet Union of the treaty limiting defensive strategic weapons (ABM defense) and the interim agreement on the limitation of strategic offensive arms--in the hope of slowing down and ending the nuclear missile race. "But today, 5 years later," Mr Laird writes, "I have to report that our hopes have not been realized and that our worst fears quickly became reality." And further: "Irrefutable proof exists that the Soviet Union has repeatedly, grossly and even provocatively violated the treaties which we have signed." He goes still further--citing supposedly convincing examples, from the archives of the former defense secretary, examples which, he says, "were concealed from Congress, the press and the public."

Now there has been a very broad response to the article. Some 20,000 letters to the magazine. From "worried readers," with expressions of gratitude to the true patriot Melvin Laird.

However, it is not the Russians who are cheating. Melvin Laird is cheating, and yet he is being congratulated. In answer to questions in Congress, the U.S. State Department prepared a special detailed report on how the agreements on curbing the strategic arms race are being observed. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance handed this report to John Sparkman, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The report was published, and it irrefutably proved the opposite of what Mr Laird maintained: namely that there have been no violations and that every doubt that one side has about the actions of the other has been examined in a most conscientious and scrupulous way by the U.S.-Soviet standing consultative commission and has been eliminated to their mutual satisfaction.

In connection with the publication of the report, Senator Sparkman saw fit to state that over the past 5 years his committee has devoted "a great deal of time" to investigating accusations of the Laird type and had "not found a single reason for accusing the Soviet Union of violating agreements on the first stage of strategic arms limitation."

Senator Pell, who also made a detailed study of the question of imaginary violations, said the following: "All the data--both classified and declassified--confirm the conclusion that the Soviet Union has conscientiously observed and is observing the treaty on ABM systems and the interim agreement on the first stage of strategic arms limitation."

Both senators are perfectly aware of the motives of Melvin Laird and similar exploiters of fear and ignorance. By attacking existing Soviet-American agreements, they want to arouse feelings among the public and in Congress which will further hinder or even block the conclusion of a second stage treaty on strategic offensive arms limitation. The struggle in America over the uncompleted SALT-II talks and the hitherto unconcluded treaty is increasing. The opponents of detente, agents of the military-industrial complex, are mounting attacks on a broad front, exploiting the vacillation and contradictions within the Carter administration, which are leading, for example, to the revival of the discredited, fruitless and dangerous theory of "linking" the SALT-II talks to other problems (such as the Ethiopian-Somali conflict). This struggle is accompanied by the fever, which is already breaking out, over this year's midterm congressional elections; that particular American fever which causes considerations relating to interparty skirmishes to be placed above national interests and current political intrigues take precedence over the interests of the future.

Evidence of the election fever is provided, in particular, by recent speeches by Republican congressional leaders Baker and Rhodes, accusing the Democratic administration of inadequate military spending and demanding that production of the B-1 strategic heavy bomber be started.

The arms race is the detente opponents' chief recipe. They present it as an appeal for vigilance, steadfastness and courage. The trickster, Mr Laird, wants the Russians to be reminded that "the emblem of the United States is still the eagle, not the ostrich." What ancient demagoguery--yet it lives! The eagle may be brave and ostrich timid, but what a pitiful choice for a person who places reason above birds. Clearly, reason is what those who base their approach to international life on distrust born of hatred--that hatred which cannot be constructive and fruitful and which bears only the threat of war--lack most of all.

BEGIN TO EXPLOIT LEBANON INVASION DURING WASHINGTON STAY

LD191558Y Moscow TASS in English 1537 GMT 19 Mar 78 LD

[Text] New York, March 19, TASS--Today Israeli Prime Minister Begin is arriving for a visit in the U.S. His negotiations with members of the American administration are beginning at a time when the Israeli military are following the road of escalation of its aggression against Lebanon and not even concealing the intention to occupy for an indefinite period part of the territory of that sovereign Arab state.

A report on Lebanon published at the U.N. says that, as a result of the Israeli invasion, some 700 Palestinians and Lebanese died, 60,000 people were left homeless, and 100,000 civilians were compelled to leave their homes, fleeing from the aggressor.

In view of the New York TIMES, Begin intends to use the occupation of south Lebanon as a trump card at the forthcoming talks in Washington.

During his stay in the U.S. the Israeli prime minister, and Foreign Minister Dayan, who is accompanying him, will discuss matters pertaining to the Egyptian-Israeli separate negotiations. American papers note in this connection that the Israeli Government's stand on the terms of the separate settlement remains tough in the extreme. Encouraged by As-Sadat's capitulatory policy and Washington's support, Tel Aviv still demands new considerable Egyptian concessions as a condition for envigorating the separate contacts that have at present bogged down.

Begin told journalists that he will press for reasserting American support for Israel's plan, put forth a few months ago, which, as is known, does not envisage either the complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from occupied Arab territories, or the legitimate national rights of the Arab people of Palestine. New York TIMES correspondent James Reston, writing from Jerusalem, points out that Begin intends to insist, when in Washington, on the preservation of the Israeli occupation of Arab territories and, first of all, the West Bank of the Jordan River.

Washington, March 19, TASS--American Senator James Abourezk levelled sharp criticism at the Israeli aggression and described Tel Aviv's actions as deliberate murder of Lebanese civilians. He stated that there is no justification for the massive invasion of Israeli troops into Lebanon, nor can there be.

Cairo, March 19, TASS--Mahmud Riyadh, the general secretary of the Arab League, addressed the heads of Arab states, urging the holding of an urgent inter-Arab summit meeting to discuss questions connected with the Israeli aggression in south Lebanon. He urged the countries with diplomatic missions in Israel to recall their ambassadors in protest.

SENATE APPROVES FIRST CANAL TREATY; OPPOSITION CONTINUES

LD181552 Moscow in English to North America 2330 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD

[Vladislav Kozyakov commentary]

[Text] During the vote on the treaty for the neutrality of the Panama Canal, 68 U.S. senators voted for; that is just 1 vote above the required majority of two-thirds. Thirty-two senators voted against. The voting showed that a sharp struggle is going on between the various political forces in Washington around the American-Panamanian agreements on the canal. It would seem that a mutually acceptable solution has been found in these agreements, which were signed after talks that lasted over 13 years. These agreements put an end to the domination of colonialism in another country of the world, Panama.

Although the terms of these treaties do not fully meet their demands, the Panamanians have supported them enthusiastically. This is indicated by the plebiscite conducted in the country. For the people of Panama these treaties have become a result of long years of struggle for independence and sovereignty of their country. Apparently for the American people, too, it was important from the angle of their national interests to normalize relations with this [word indistinct] American country on a basis of equality and mutual respect. It is easy to see what would have been in store for the United States and its relations with Panama if it continued to uphold a permanent maintenance of its colonialist positions. For the Panamanian people would not have stopped their struggle for freedom and independence, and the United States would have faced considerable complications in the situation if it had continued to resort to force the way it did during well-known events in the Canal Zone 14 years ago.

However, today during the debates on the new agreements, some circles in the United States act exactly from such unrealistic positions. They reject the agreements and actually stand for a policy of strength in order to keep dictating their terms to Panama and to continue the American colonial rule in the Canal Zone.

As I see it, the current disputes in the United States between supporters and opponents of the agreements on the Panama Canal go far beyond the framework of American-Panamanian relations. These are actually disputes whether the United States should consider the realities of the contemporary world and accordingly base its relations with other countries on mutual respect and equality, or whether it should follow the outdated concepts of force and dictation, of planting puppet regimes and of interference in the affairs of other nations.

It is a revealing fact that opponents of the treaties on the Panama Canal group themselves in the United States around such a politician as Ronald Reagan. He has long been famous as a chief opponent of the policy of relaxation of tensions, of improving the international situation and as a champion of an unlimited arms race. As we can see, opponents of relaxation in the United States do not accept any agreements which serve to improve international tensions, to promote peace on the basis of justice and equality of all nations.

The first vote in the United States Senate on the Panama Canal treaties shows the defeat of a campaign launched against these treaties by Ronald Reagan and his supporters. But there remains a danger that these treaties will be broken down by all sorts of maneuvers through amendments that are unacceptable for Panama. There remains a danger of other actions in the United States hostile to the cause of peace. The [word indistinct] political struggle in Washington around the Panama Canal agreements continues to be a serious test for those American politicians who act in this case from positions of sober-mindedness and realism.

DISPATCH OF SPECIAL ENVOY TO SOMALIA CONFIRMS U.S. AIMS

LD171512V Moscow TASS in English 1435 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, March 17 TASS--The White House announced on Thursday that President James Carter has decided to send to Somalia his special envoy--Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Richard Moose. The State Department spokesman stressed that Moose's talks in Mogadiscio will encompass the entire range of accords between the United States and Somalia, including deliveries to that country of American "defensive" weapons. It is noted in diplomatic circles here that whereas previously the United States preferred to operate behind the screens and give Somalia military aid through third countries, such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia, now it has decided to operate openly. But this does not mean that American military aid to Somalia through third countries will be discontinued.

It has not yet been reported what the United States means by "defensive" weapons. But last year, when American military aid to Somalia was first mentioned, local observers expressed the view that the United States could supply light military aircraft, artillery, antitank rockets and other modern weapons. It has been learned in local circles that one of the tasks of sending the special envoy of the U.S. President to Mogadiscio is to strengthen U.S. positions in that part of Africa. Thereby Washington is now trying by other means to attain the aims that it failed to achieve through the Somali aggression against Ethiopia. The United States wants to attach Somalia to itself by means of promises to make up for all the armaments lost by the Somalis during the war against Ethiopia, and to supply new arms.

The aim of these U.S. manoeuvres, as it is noted here, is to entrench itself in Somalia, on the one hand, and to undermine relations of the region's countries with the USSR and to block Soviet access to the Red Sea, on the other hand. Such steps may lead to new complications and to a destabilisation of the situation in northeast Africa, which is complex as it is.

MCGOVERN WELCOMES SUPERPOWERS' RESTRAINT IN HORN CRISIS

LD191610V Moscow TASS in English 1519 GMT 19 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, March 19, TASS--Prominent American politician Senator George McGovern has published a statement in which, touching on the situation in the area of the Horn of Africa, he congratulates the U.S. administration on the "restraint" exercised in the border controversy between Somalia and Ethiopia.

he al[illegible] the governments of the Soviet Union and Cuba for honoring their commitment not to cross the international border in the conflict between the two African countries. The senator described such restraint on the part of all parties concerned very commendable. It helped to stabilize the situation in Africa, and one can only hope that similar restraint will take the upper hand in other tense situations on the African Continent.

CARTER FAILS TO RECOGNIZE 'HUMAN RIGHTS' OF COAL MINERS

LD161505Y Minsk SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA in Russian 12 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[T. Aleshin article: "The United States: 'Illusions Dispelled'"]

[Text] "The majority of the illusions which some people linked with the advent of President J. Carter's administration have now been dispelled." These words by Gus Hall, secretary general of the Communist Party of the United States, heard recently at his press conference in New York, reflect the opinion of millions of Americans.

Indeed, is it possible for the U.S. working people to have a different opinion? After all, contrary to J. Carter's cheerful predictions, inflation is continuing in the country, the high level of unemployment persists, and the tax burden weighing on the people is increasing. The living standard of the working class is dropping. In January this year alone the working people's real incomes were reduced by 3 percent.

And it is under these conditions of economic disorders that the Carter administration plans to increase the Pentagon's budget to $126 billion in fiscal 1979. The appetite of the military-industrial complex is growing.

In connection with the planned increase in the Pentagon budget, the eminent U.S. military specialists (T. Khuns) and H. Scouille submitted a memorandum to Congress. Pointing to the danger of such a step for the cause of peace and detente, the authors of the document at the same time draw attention to the fact that, by abandoning a number of expensive programs, U.S. defense spending in fiscal 1979 could be reduced by at least $10.5 billion without detriment to national security. The preface to the memorandum, which is signed by a number of eminent U.S. public and labor union figures, notes that the funds released from the Pentagon budget could be channeled into solving the country's most important social problems.

The U.S. working class is answering the monopolies' increasing oppression by stepping up the struggle for its rights. At the above-mentioned press conference, Gus Hall noted that the class struggle in the United States is becoming keener. The most convincing evidence of this, he said, is the national strike in the coal industry.

This strike was declared 3 months ago by the United Mine Workers [UMW]. Over 160,000 U.S. miners are seeking an increase in their wages to offset the precipitous rise in the cost of living and an improvement in their working conditions, pensions and medical services. One of their main demands is the right to strike against the actions of individual mining corporations and at individual mines--which lends a political nature to the miners' action.

The U.S. authorities, which have taken the side of the businessmen, are trying to stifle the strike by any means. In a number of places in the coal-mining regions the courts have issued orders limiting the number of pickets. Strikers are being arrested on the pretext that they are "violating public order." Mine-owners are resorting to the services of strikebreakers, who are taken to work under stepped-up police and National Guard protection.

Strike-breaking measures are also being undertaken by federal government. J. Carter and Labor Secretary R. Ma[illegible] held a number of conferences with members of Congress to discuss action against the UMW. These include the transfer of mines to direct government control and the application of compulsory arbitration at talks between the labor union and the employers. These steps were designed to intimidate the miners and force them to make compromises with the mine owners. However, the workers would not budge. J. Carter then decided to apply the antiworker Taft-Hartley Act.

On 7 March he announced on television that he had made the decision after the striking miners had overwhelmingly rejected the draft labor agreement with the employers, which was imposed on the UMW through government pressure.

Under the Taft-Hartley Act the government has the right, through the courts, to order striking workers to return to work for a period of 80 days. During this time the labor union and the employers are obliged to hold talks on settling the conflicts.

The antilabor union Taft-Hartley Act, adopted in 1947 in the hey-day of American reaction, has been applied 34 times since then, including twice against the miners, and both times they refused to submit to the authorities' order. This time, the press thinks, the government may try to resort to force by sending in the National Guard against the miners. The Washington POST, for example, wrote on 8 March: "There is no guarantee that the miners will submit to the order to return to work."

Throughout America the movement of solidarity with the miners' struggle is broadening. The progressive public is indignant about the government's actions. A statement by the U.S. Communist Party Central Committee stresses that while claiming to defend human rights, J. Carter "does not intend to raise a finger to recognize the human right of the miners to preserve their labor union, the right to strike in protest against the threat to the health and security of their work and the right to protect their lives and to the chance to earn a living."

The workers in metallurgy, electrical engineering, construction and other sectors in industry are also demonstrating their growing determination in the struggle for their fundamental interests. The growth of class awareness among workers vividly reflects the irreconcilability of the interests of the working class and major capital.

HUMPHREY-HAWKINS BILL: SYMBOLIC AIMS, LITTLE SUBSTANCE

LD172126Y Moscow TASS in English 2039 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington March 17 TASS--The House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress on Thursday adopted the Humphrey-Hawkins bill and sent it to the Senate for consideration. The bill formally declares the right of Americans to get jobs. In local political circles this bill is described as "feeble", since it does not envisage any concrete measures that would really guarantee the Americans the right to work. Moreover, it actually legalizes a constant reserve army of unemployed--4 percent of the total labour force in the country.

The bill incorporates many other provisions--on balancing the state budget, on reduction of inflation, on a rise in purchase prices of agricultural products, development of public transport and a search for new sources of energy. But no concrete measures to carry them through are envisaged. As is noted by the newspaper Washington POST, the bill is decorated with symbolic aims, many of which will hardly be reached.

PRC'S TECHNOLOGICAL GOALS SCORED AT ALL-CHINA CONFERENCE

ID191644Y Moscow TASS in English 1629 GMT 19 Mar 78 ID

[Text] Peking, March 19, TASS--An all-China conference on questions of developing science opened in Peking, reports the NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY. Taking part are some 6,000 people.

In his speech, the vice premier of the PRC State Council, Teng Hsiao-ping, said that the time is gone forever when the "group of four" arbitrarily mangled the cause of science and persecuted intellectuals. He called for turning China into a mighty modern power.

Reliance on one's own forces, the speaker said, does not mean exclusiveness, isolation and senseless rejection out of hand of the joint endeavour of all mankind, and every country must borrow from others the achievements of advanced science and technology. Even when Chinese science and technology attains the advanced world levels, all the same, we shall have to borrow all the best from others. Teng Hsiao-ping called for "carrying out a revolution in the sphere of education".

In his speech Teng Hsiao-ping made the standard attacks against the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

CHINA'S TIES TO ISRAEL UNDERMINE ARAB CAUSE

OW200655Y Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to China 1100 GMT 16 Mar 78 OW

[Glebov commentary: "The Logic of a Renegade"]

[Excerpts] Recently, a Lebanese weekly, THE ARAB WORLD, reported that Peking's leaders intend to recognize and establish diplomatic ties with Israel. People who have been closely watching Peking's vacilating foreign policy over the past 20 years are not at all surprised by this news. Since the Chinese leaders began their anti-Soviet and anti-socialist policy in the early 1960's, China's foreign policy has undergone tremendous changes. It has become increasingly reactionary.

The Chinese leaders long ago established links with high-level Israeli leaders. However, for obvious reasons, Peking has not dared to admit these links with Israel. Peking's leaders have always styled themselves as friends of the people of various countries, particularly, the Arab people. Thus, the Peking leaders would appear particularly despicable if they were to establish ties with the Israeli Zionists. The Israeli ruling clique never intended to keep these links secret for the sake of Peking. Both Israeli officials and the Israeli press have frequently reported on various meetings and contacts between Peking and Tel Aviv's activists.

As early as 1968, a Beirut paper, AL-HADAF reported meetings between Chinese and Israeli representatives to negotiate trade agreements. The paper also charged Peking with stabbing the Arab people in the back.

Other foreign papers reported a $10 million trade pact concluded between Tel Aviv and Peking in December 1976. There have also been reports on Tel Aviv's supplying China with cotton, phosphates, steel aluminum tubes and chemicals and on China supplying Israel with nonferrous metals, strategic raw materials, canned meats and other commodities.

Peking's Middle East policy conforms completely with the interests of Israeli Zionists. When Israel treacherously attacked Egypt, Syria and Jordan in June 1967, Peking, by strenuously opposing a ceasefire, was in fact supporting the Israeli aggressors. China wanted to continue the fighting and labeled all efforts for a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict as a "second Munich." The Peking leaders' stand was completely in keeping with the aims of Zionist extremists.

Egyptian President as-Sadat's recent one-sided action and his capitulationist stand are extremely advantageous to Israel and its imperialist protectors. This capitulationist stand has also prompted Peking's leaders to fully support and endorse the Egyptian president's policy. Despite the fact that Peking's leaders acknowledge the Arab peoples and the world's progressive socialist's denunciation of As-Sadat's stand, Peking has conspired with the Israeli leaders to oppose the Arab people.

Let us discuss the Lebanese weekly's latest report that Peking's leaders intend to establish diplomatic ties with Israel. The Egyptian president's renunciation of Egypt's allegiance to the Arab cause of opposing imperialism and Zionism and his obsequience to Israel have inspired the Peking leaders to act, because As-Sadat has opened the gates for Peking to openly curry favor with the Israeli ruling clique.

Both Washington and Tel Aviv surely welcome the Peking leaders' actions. But the people of the various Arab countries will surely give Peking's political speculations the appraisal they deserve, which I am certain will damage China's international prestige and status.

PRC'S MILITARIST AMBITIONS SHOWN IN NUCLEAR PROGRAM

LD171526Y Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in English to Asia 1130 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD

[Yuriy Dimov commentary]

[Text] On 15 March China tested another nuclear device, showing the Peking leaders were totally indifferent to the fate of millions of people whose health is threatened by the blast in the atmosphere. Atmospheric tests staged by China have caused radioactive fallout in Japan, the United States, Southeast Asia and Australia. The radioactive cloud caused by the preceding 22d blast circled the earth several times and pushed up radioactive levels dangerously in many countries. Governments and public organizations in many countries, particularly in Asia, protested to Peking for its irresponsible action. Still the tests continue.

In my opinion, Yuriy Dimov says, they will continue in [the] future. The Chinese leaders both old and new, care little about world public opinion or mankind in general. Remember [what] Mao Tse-tung said 20 years ago: Who can forecast the number of victims the coming war will claim; perhaps it will be a third of the entire population of the world. I think that is not so much. And the new leaders of China agree with Mao. They have remained faithful to his line in foreign affairs, something they regularly stress in official materials and speeches. Then the recent session of the National People's Congress, the Chinese parliament, included a clause in the country's Constitution saying Mao Tse-tung's line would be adhered to by the country.

Another reason that gives ground for believing China will continue to test nuclear weapons is that Chinese officials and press keep saying that by century's end China must become a powerful military power. This target too is included in the new Chinese Constitution. The chief officers of the general staff recently aired their views on the home network; they said China must not only have more tanks and guns but more atomic bombs.

China, they said, must have everything the foreigners have and more. It was to this end that the nuclear blast in the atmosphere was set off on Wednesday. It is to this end that China spends more than 40 percent of its budget on the arms race, dooming the industries and farming to stagnation and the people to a life of semistarvation.

The rate at which Chinese army is carrying out its nuclear missile program soared after Mao Tse-tung's death. Over just the last few months, China tested five nuclear devices with much greater frequency than in the past. Over the same period it launched two artificial earth satellites, both of which were returned to Chinese territory. Experts say that means China has built intercontinental ballistic missiles with a 12,000 km range. Last September the central Chinese army newspaper said a guided missile capable of carrying a nuclear warhead had been tested successfully. Experts believe its range is 9,500 km. The latest blast, experts say, was apparently staged to test just such a nuclear warhead carrying missile.

And it is apparent the Chinese leaders are as good as their word when they say they intend to speed up their nuclear missile program to a point where they can threaten the security of any country on earth. So it is extremely doubtful Peking will heed either the protests or calls to end nuclear tests in the atmosphere. Chinese tests of atomic and hydrogen devices in the atmosphere are beyond doubt dangerous to the health of people in many countries, especially to its neighbors. But its breakneck militarization, its nuclear missile buildup, is a threat to the security of all people, (?to) the security of nations, of general peace. The nuclear test on Wednesday is a grim reminder of this.

Test's Effect on Asia

LD172134Y Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1600 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpts] On 15 March, China carried out a new nuclear explosion in the atmosphere. Our observer Anatoliyev comments in this connection:

This is China's 23d atomic explosion registered in other countries. It should be stressed that it was again carried out in the atmosphere. China continues these dangerous experiments in open defiance of the treaty prohibiting such explosions signed in Moscow 15 years ago.

This time a dangerous cloud of radioactive dust has again reached Japan; the Japanese public is (?righteously) anxious.

There is also another side to the matter. Of late the Chinese leadership intensified a campaign to embellish Peking's foreign policy in the eyes of the public of Japan and Southeast Asian nations. Peking is trying to assure Japan of its readiness to develop friendship, but on terms beneficial to the Chinese leadership. The deputy prime minister of China, Li Hsien-nien, has started a tour of several Southeast Asian countries which is clearly aimed at reducing tension in relations between China and these nations.

The latest Chinese atomic explosion in the atmosphere, however, shows the true attitude of Peking for its neighbors. It continues to ignore the will of hundreds of millions of people in Asia and other continents and disregards their lives and health.

KOSYGIN RECEIVES BULGARIA'S TSOLOV IN KREMLIN

LD162037Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1730 GMT 16 Mar 78 LD

[Text] On 16 March Aleksey Nikolayevich Kosygin, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, received in the Kremlin Tano Tsolov, member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Bulgarian People's Republic, who is in Moscow. During the conversation, which passed in a warm and comradely atmosphere, the further development of all-round economic cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Bulgarian People's Republic was discussed. Particular attention was given to development of a general scheme for specialization and cooperation in various spheres of material production between the Soviet Union and the Bulgarian People's Republic in the period ending 1990.

ZHIVKOV ENDS TALKS IN JAPAN, COMMUNIQUE ISSUED

LD181134Y Moscow TASS in English 1022 GMT 18 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tokyo, March 18, TASS--Chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria Todor Zhivkov concluded his official visit to Japan.

During the stay in Japan, Todor Zhivkov held talks with Japan's Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda. Questions of further development of cooperation between the two countries were discussed at the talks. As a result of these meetings, the leaders of both countries agreed to set up a mixed governmental economic commission that will consider questions of the development of commercial and economic relations between the People's Republic of Bulgaria and Japan. Agreements on scientific and technical cooperation and on cooperation in agriculture and fisheries were signed. The sides issued a joint communique about the results of the official visit. They point out with satisfaction that relations between Bulgaria and Japan have been developing over the recent years on a stable foundation in various spheres. There exist favourable conditions for further widening of bilateral contacts, specifically in the sphere of economy, culture and scientific and technical cooperation.

The sides emphasized great importance of disarmament for safeguarding peace and ensuring international security. The communique says that a unanimous opinion about the need of immediate measures for arresting the continued arms race and speediest conclusion of a treaty on banning of all nuclear tests for a definite period was expressed at the talks. The sides expressed the hope that the coming special session of the United Nations General Assembly on disarmament will be a new step toward disarmament.

Chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria Todor Zhivkov left for home today.

OPENING OF USSR-SFRY TALKS IN BELGRADE REPORTED

LD151642Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 15 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Soviet-Yugoslav consultations on current international problems and the further development of relations between the Soviet Union and the SFRY have begun in Belgrade. The Soviet delegation is headed by Rodionov, deputy USSR minister of foreign affairs, and the Yugoslav delegation by Milan Veres, assistant federal secretary for foreign affairs.

SERBIA'S CKREBIC HOLDS MOSCOW TALKS WITH NOVIKOV

LD152154Y Belgrade TANJUG in English 1619 GMT 15 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 15 (TANJUG)--Dusan Ckrebic, president of the Republican Executive Council of Serbia (Yugoslav constituent republic), who leads a Serbian delegation on an official visit to the Soviet Union, today had talks in Moscow with Vladimir Novikov, vice president of the Soviet Union's Council of Ministers. In a cordial and friendly atmosphere they discussed questions important for the development of economic cooperation between the two countries, especially the share of Serbia in its promotion.

Trade Cooperation Talks

LD152156Y Belgrade TANJUG in English 1621 GMT 15 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 15 (TANJUG)--Yugoslav-Soviet economic cooperation has been developing favourably. Last year, Yugoslav-Soviet trade reached the overall value of 3 billion, 50 million dollars, and over the past five-year period it increased by 2.7 times. This was set out today during the talks held between Republican Premier of the Yugoslav Constituent Republic of Serbia Dusan Ckrebic and Soviet Foreign Trade Ministry officials. During the talks, special attention was given to Serbia's participation in the overall Yugoslav-Soviet economic cooperation. The talks particularly focused on possibilities for bigger engagement of the Soviet machine-building and electro-industry in development of electroenergy in Serbia, further participation of the Soviet economy in the construction of the Smederevo ironworks and in equipping the mining foundry complex Bor.

The Soviet Union will shortly deliver a turbo-generator for the hydroelectric power plant Djerdap 88. Djerdap II is being constructed on the Danube by Yugoslavia and Romania. An agreement between the two countries on this project was recently reached.

Departs Moscow for Belgrade

LD191945Y Belgrade TANJUG in English 1631 GMT 19 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 19, (TANJUG)--A delegation of the Yugoslav Constituent Republic of Serbia, headed by Serbian Republican Premier Dusan Ckrebic, left here today for Belgrade after paying a seven-day, official visit to the Soviet Union. During the visit, Serbian Republican Premier Ckrebic conducted talks with Russian Federation Vice-Premier Mikhail Solomentsev, Deputy Chairman of the Soviet Ministerial Council Vladimir Novikov and ranking officials in the Soviet committees for foreign economic relations, planning and radio and television and a number of Soviet ministries.

BRIEFS

CEMA TALKS IN HELSINKI--Helsinki--A meeting has been held here of specialists of the Commission for Cooperation between the CEMA and the Republic of Finalnd. It discussed matters of power-industry machine-building. Proposals for new fields of cooperation between the CEMA and Finland were approved and additional proposals adopted for consideration. Talks took place at the same time on questions concerning an expansion of cooperation between CEMA organizations and Finnish joint-stock companies. Appropriate agreements were signed as a result of the talks. [Text] [Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2003 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD]

SITUATION BETWEEN FRENCH ELECTION ROUNDS SUMMARIZED

LD171025Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[Correspondent Yu. Kharlanov dispatch: "France: Between the Two Rounds"]

[Text] Paris, 15 March--Figures, figures, figures....As always during parliamentary elections, reputable French newspapers have large supplements covering the first round result of voting in every electoral district.

Both de jure and de facto the elections to France's National Assembly are not over. As has already been reported, only 68 candidates gathered more than 50 percent of the votes in their districts will become National Assembly deputies. In the remaining districts the outcome of the elections will become known 19 March and in many, if not most departments, the difference between the votes obtained 12 March by the main political bloc candidates was so small that it will be possible, in FRANCE-SOIR'S expression, to fit the winning majority "on a dime."

Official figures by the Ministry of the Interior also testify to this. Overall, in France and its overseas possessions the parties which signed the Joint Government Program obtained 45.3 percent of the first round of the votes. The candidates of the government coalition parties received 46.5 percent. The remainder is accounted for by small groupings. Among these, groupings representing leftist currents obtained 3.3 percent. The "ecology 78" movement candidates--that is, people who advocate environmental protection--obtained 2.1 percent. The Ministry of the Interior includes under the heading "miscellaneous" the candidates of all kinds of small groups which collected a further 2.8 percent of the votes. But much depends on the decision of the people who voted for these small groupings: for almost all their candidates will not be in the second round. Who will get the "released" votes is a question of considerable importance.

Last Sunday there took shape a situation of which LE MONDE has written: "For the first time in 20 years leftwing forces have ceased to be the minority although they are not yet a real majority."

The 5 years between parliamentary elections have been a complex period in France's history. In 1974 V. Giscard d'Estaing was elected president of the country with a majority of 423,000 votes over F. Mitterrand, the single candidate of leftwing forces. The local elections held in these years have demonstrated that the leftwing parties which signed the Joint Program are increasing their influence among voters.

The economic crisis which has been dragging on for 4 years now is a hard blow to the working people who are suffering from inflation and unemployment. The magnetic force of the Joint Program proposals has consisted precisely in the fact that the program names specific ways of saving the crisis.

Under these conditions it was natural to expect a definite advance by the leftwing parties in the elections, and this has been seen.

The main result of the first round held 12 March is the considerable increase in the number of votes for the parties which are demanding democratic changes in the country. It has been calculated that overall (including the small groupings as well) leftwing position candidates opposing present government policy obtained about 50 percent of votes. In the general shift to the left, the advances made by each leftwing party have been uneven.

Communist candidates gathered 800,000 more votes in the first round than in the 1973 elections. But as almost 5 million more people than 5 years ago voted in France last Sunday, the percentage of votes obtained by the communists fell slightly--from 21.3 percent to 20.6 percent. These results were achieved in a complex situation for the communists.

The Communist Party was the main target of attacks by rightwing politicians and the bourgeois press during the election campaign. As French Communist Party [PCF] Secretary General G. Marchais has noted, the communists' positions were distorted by the mass media and there were also instances of direct anticommunist interference from abroad, in particular from Washington. Reaction particularly emphasized a split between the Communists and their partners in the leftwing bloc, particularly after the leftwing parties failed to reach agreement on the question of updating and clarifying the Joint Program.

The Socialists and Left Radicals, who received 22.6 percent and 2.1 percent of the votes respectively, improved their position. This means that over 2 million additional voters voted for them. However, this improvement is not as good as what was forecast in France in recent weeks.

The correlation in the number of votes among the parties of the ruling coalition is characterized by relative equilibrium between its two main forces--the Rally for the Republic, which received 22.6 percent, and the Union for French Democracy, created recently from three center parties, which received 2.5 percent.

What will be the outcome of the second round of voting? Literally everybody is asking that question today in France. The difference in the number of votes between the two opposing camps is so small that it does not permit accurate forecasting. In any case, none of the parties has laid down its arms in the struggle for the future deputy mandates.

All the main political groupings have already held sessions of their leading organs. A PCF Central Committee plenum analyzed the results of the first round and instructed a PCF delegation to hold talks with the Socialists and Left Radicals on program and tactical questions. That meeting took place on 13 March and concluded with the publication of a statement by the three parties which signed the Joint Program. The statement says that the left parties solemnly declare their willingness to do everythong so as to jointly gain a majority on the basis of the Joint Program with the aim of creating a left government. The declaration advances a number of measures in the social and economic spheres which meet the interests of working people and which the left forces intend to struggle, to implement.

The three parties stated that they are withdrawing on a reciprocal basis in favor of the particular left canddiate who achieved the best results in his district in the first round. Matters will now depend on how disciplined the voters will be in answering the appeals of these parties.

On Tuesday evening a meeting of representatives of the parties of the ruling coalition was held at which their agreement to withdraw on a reciprocal basis during the second round was confirmed.

"Elections: The Outcome of the Battle Remains Uncertain" was the headline in the rightwing newspaper LE FIGARO. It calls on the parties of the ruling camp to mobilize all efforts in order to preserve a majority in the future National Assembly. Commenting on reports that the Paris Exchange had reacted to the first round results by a sharp rise in currency transactions and the French franc, LE FIGARO emphasizes that the reaction of business circles is of a blatantly political nature. But however the exchange reacts, the newspaper writes, nothing is yet decided from the political viewpoint.

An editorial in the French communist newspaper L'HUMANITE notes that now, 5 days before the second round, is no time to grieve at the opportunities missed in the past. Not a single vote for the left forces must be lost. The Communist Party will not spare its efforts to achieve that goal.

PCF'S MARCHAIS COMMENTS ON RESULTS OF SECOND ROUND

LD201102Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0130 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Paris, 20 March--The first official results of elections to the National Assembly, France's lower chamber of parliament, have been announced. The elections, in which around 31 million voters participated, took part in two rounds, on 12 and 19 March. In the first round 68 deputies were elected; the fate of the remaining 423 seats was decided in the voting on Sunday.

According to preliminary, incomplete data, the parties of the ruling majority obtained 288 seats in the National Assembly and the left parties--199 seats.

Commenting on the election results, George Marchais, secretary general of the French Communist Party [PCF] stated: The voting has shown that 15 million electors spoke out against the policy of the rightwing forces which are in power. The PCF, G. Marchais said, will continue even more persistently the policy of the Union of Left Forces and the rallying of those who strive for changes.

Francois Mitterand, first secretary of the Socialist Party noted that France will have the same problems as before. As before the Socialist Party will be supported by those who are fully determined to continue the struggle.

FINAL RESULTS OF FRENCH ELECTIONS REPORTED

LD201104Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1032 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Paris, 20 March--The final results of the elections to the French National Assembly have been published. The second round of the elections was held on Sunday. In the new composition of the National Assembly the parties of the ruling coalition have managed to hold a majority of deputies' mandates--291 out of 491. The greatest number of mandates among the other coalition members was obtained by representatives of the RPR Gaullist Party. They held 148 seats, although this party suffered a loss of 36 seats.

The Unity of Left Forces will be represented by 199 deputies--86 Communists, 103 Socialists and 10 Left Radicals. In comparison with the previous composition, there has been an increase in representation of the Communist and Socialist parties.

One seat will be held by a representative of the extreme left.

ITALIANS PROTEST LATEST ACT OF TERRORISM

LD191449Y Moscow TASS in English 1428 GMT 19 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Rome, March 19, TASS--TASS correspondent Vladimir Malyshev reports:

A wave of protests of the democratic public against a political provocation staged in Rome where the chairman of the National Council of the Christian Democratic Party, Aldo Moro, was kidnapped continues unabated in Italy. Mass meetings and demonstrations of working peoples were held in Rome, Turin and many other Italian cities at the call of trade unions and democratic parties. Their participants demand that a resolute rebuff be given to enemies of democracy that try to aggravate the political situation in the country, to create an atmosphere of terror and uncertainty, to deal a blow at democratic gains of the working people.

Meanwhile tens of thousands of policemen, carabineers and members of staff of the security service continue to search of Aldo Moro. Operations for screening suspicious-looking persons are held in towns, wholesale searches are conducted and strict checks are made at railway terminals, airports and highways.

A conference of experts that was held in Rome worked out measures for strengthening protection of public order.

Our democracy is now in danger, Enrico Berlinguer, the general secretary of the Italian Communist Party, writes in the newspaper L'UNITA. He stresses that the forces of reaction wish to intimidate the Italian people, to strike a blow at unity of the working people and thus pave the way for establishing a dictatorial regime. Enrico Berlinguer urged Italian working people, communists--all democrats for vigilance, for rallying the ranks to uphold democracy.

POLITICAL TERRORISM PART OF WIDER PLAN

LD182304Y Moscow in Italian to Italy 1730 GMT 18 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Our commentator Nikolay Gratsianov writes in connection with the kidnaping of the well-known politician, Aldo Moro, president of the Christian Democratic Party:

This kidnaping is another link in the long chain of political crimes perpetrated recently in various West European countries. The kidnaping of Urquijo, president of the State Council of Spain; the assassination of Aleksos Panaghoulis, deputy of the Greek Parliament; the attack on the house of George Marchais, secretary of the French Communist Party; the occupation of state offices in Holland; and explosions and fires in the offices of political parties--these are only a few examples of the terrorist activity.

These attacks are carried out by organizations and groups of various denominations and colors which have one method in common--violence in all its manifestations. With each new crime committed under an archreactionary or pseudorevolutionary slogan, it is becoming increasingly obvious that violent explosions become more frequent whenever the need for a serious political choice arises in a certain country. This is especially obvious in the case of Italy where a new government has just been formed with the support of a parliamentary majority of democratic parties, including the communists.

During the government crisis itself, the terrorist acts in the country became more frequent; in fact the kidnaping of the Christian Democratic leader Moro, happened only a few hours before the beginning of the debate on the vote of confidence.

Another thing, too, which is not accidental. In Italy, as well as in other countries, the terrorist sorties--despite their apparent heterogeneity and diversity of colors--appear less and less spontaneous. In addition, they do not seem to lack arms or financial means to commit their crimes. There is widespread opinion in Italy that it is not a question of actions by isolated groups but of a plan scrupulously prepared by internal and international reactionary forces. It is these forces which pull the strings of the extremist puppets and maintain the strategy of tension which threatens the democratic institutions of the state. Exploiting their influence and often also the passive attitude of some organs of authority, they are trying to create in individual countries an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty and thus to shift to the right the axis of political life in Europe.

NEW GOVERNMENT IN ITALY VIEWED OPTIMISTICALLY

LD1800197 Moscow in Italian to Italy 1730 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD

[Igor Krymov commentary]

[Text] The government crisis in Italy, which began 2 months ago in conjunction with the request by a series of parties to form an emergency government that would comprise representatives of all parties that signed the July program agreement, has ended under really extraordinary circumstances.

The kidnaping of Aldo Moro, the president of the Christian Democratic Party [DC], which is undoubtedly an attack on the prospects for democratic development in Italy, has accelerated the granting of full powers to the new government.

Bearing in mind the delicate situation of the country now, the political parties, with the exception of the liberals and the neofascists, voted for confidence in the new government in order to enable it to promptly take all measures necessary to defend public order and combat terrorism, which is increasingly acquiring a political character.

The government led by Giulio Andreotti, as we know, will rely on a parliamentary majority with, for the first time in the last 30 years, the participation of the Italian Communist Party [PCI]. Assessing this fact, Di Giulio, member of the PCI directorate, pointed out that even though the formation of a new majority in the highest organ of the country does not guarantee the final solution of the problems facing the country, it can initiate a profound change of direction in Italy's political life.

Consequently, a qualitatively new step has been taken in the country's political leadership. The formation of the new parliamentary majority demonstrates that, within the DC itself, awareness of the necessity of an understanding between the government and the democratic antifascist forces in order to achieve economic recovery and the consolidation of democracy is growing.

The formation of the new parliamentary majority, as Alessandro Natta pointed out in a L'UNITA interview, has facilitated the solution of a series of programmatic difficulties.

The complete assessment of the effectiveness of this program obviously might become possible some time later. However, we can already say that the program's main attention is directed toward the most acute and urgent problems facing the country, and that in it is confirmed the political planning and economic development for increase in employment, in expansion of the productive base, and in stabilization of the financial policy.

Complex and difficult problems face the country and only the future will tell whether these can be overcome by the new government, which is the 40th since the fall of fascism.

UK-SPANISH TALKS ON GIBRALTAR END WITHOUT SOLUTION

LD162023Y Moscow TASS in English 1654 GMT 16 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Paris, March 16, TASS--A meeting of the British foreign secretary and Spanish Foreign Minister Marcelino Oreja Aguirre held here brought no concrete results. The future of the British colony of Gibraltar was discussed at the meeting. Spain insists on the return to her of Gibraltar which still remains a colonial status, espite the decision of the United Nations organization that independence be granted to it.

Four-hour long negotiations ended with a communique which points out that the ministers considered possibilities of forming Anglo-Spanish working groups to study various aspects of the problem and decided to continue period meetings to discuss the Gibraltar issue.

The content of the communique shows that no substantial headway was made at the negotiations, commentators point out.

SPANISH INTENTIONS TO JOIN NATO DISCUSSED

LD181334Y Moscow in Spanish to Spain 2200 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD

[Mikhail Kremnev commentary]

[Text] Lately new events have taken place which show that Spain intends to enter the North Atlantic bloc. According to what the newspaper EL PAIS writes, the Spanish Government has decided to start the first initiatives which should lead to Spanish entry into NATO.

Such initiatives have already been taken, writes our observer Mikhail Kremnev. A meeting of the Hispano-North American Commission took place a few days ago in Madrid. During the meeting, different problems connected with Spanish cooperation with the Atlantic bloc were discussed. As DIARIO 16 writes, Lt Gen Mellado Gutierrez, first deputy prime minister for defense affairs, will shortly leave for the United States to have talks in Washington connected with Spain's entry into NATO. In the Senate, Foreign Minister Marcelino Oreja Aguirre stated Spain's willingness to be a NATO member.

Those in favor of Spain's entry to NATO argue that by taking this step Spain would supposedly strengthen its national security, obtain access to important strategic information and policy and take a more active part in the international affairs of the European Continent.

If we reflect on these arguments, their inevitable inconsistency is revealed. Really, who threatens Spain's security and proposes to drag it into a warlike conflict? There is not one European state which has problems of conflict in its relations with Spain. Meanwhile, the North Atlantic bloc is far from guaranteeing that conflict situations will not arise among its members.

Let us recall that the NATO leadership did not know how to ward off the conflict between Greece and Turkey over Cyprus and that the world was on the point of witnessing an armed confrontation between the two Atlantic partners. England also had recourse to force in the cod war with Iceland.

In connection with a more active participation in European affairs, it is not absolutely necessary for Spain to be a member of NATO for this. The prestige of Spain rose, in particular, thanks to its constructive participation in the Helsinki Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe. There was a reason for choosing Madrid as the next venue for the pan-European conference. In choosing Madrid, the participants of the Belgrade conference took into account Spain's inclination toward neutrality.

The negative aspects of Spain's affiliation with NATO are more than these though. Madrid political circles call attention to it. In this case, the course of Spain's foreign policy would be subordinated not to its national interests but to the interests of the North Atlantic bloc. Spanish foreign policy will inevitably have to follow the course of Atlantic solidarity. Membership of NATO would lead to foreign troops being displaced on Spanish territory and, therefore, Spanish military spending would increase. It is known that NATO countries, pressured by the United States, annually increase their allocations for warlike ends. Spain will have to follow the example of its Atlantic partners.

This will hardly alleviate the crisis which the Spanish economy is experiencing. With a whole series of actions in her foreign policy, Spain has shown that she adheres to a realistic course--a course which received the extensive support of Spanish public opinion. At present, international prestige is gained not by participation in one or other political-military alliance but with the establishment of multilateral relations with all countries and constructive initiatives directed at strengthening peace and international security.

REASON FOR CALLAGHAN'S TRIP TO U.S. DEFINED

LD162231Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1453 GMT 16 Mar 78 LD

[Text] London, 16 March, TASS--It has been officially announced here that J. Callaghan, the British prime minister, will go to the United States next week for talks with President J. Carter. As the British press is saying, the coming talks in Washington will be devoted mainly to looking for a way out of the sharp economic and currency crisis being experienced by the Western states and to preparing for a new meeting on economic problems of the leaders of the seven most important capitalist countries which is to take place in Bonn in the middle of July.

Commenting on the British prime minister's visit to the American capital, the London TIMES stresses that it must be regarded as a "new demonstration of the Western states leaders' worry in connection with the unending economic decline in the capitalist world." Policial observers note that J. Callaghan's trip to the United States is directly connected with his recent visit to Bonn and his consultations with FRG chancellor Schmidt during which, as was pointed out by the West German paper DIE WELT, both sides were trying to coordinate their efforts and find the "relevant measures" to overcome the economic and financial crisis.

But as the progressive British public is stressing, the results of the Anglo-German talks can hardly be regarded as positive.

Literally the day after the talks in Bonn J. Callaghan, addressing representatives of British business circles, again called upon the leading capitalist states to "work together" in the cause of solving economic proglems. But no one can seriously hope for the effectiveness of this call and for selfless actions by Western countries, which defend their own selfish interests, say wide circles of the British public.

PORTUGUESE CP CONFERENCE ON NATIONALIZED SECTOR ENDS

LD161435Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[Correspondent B. Kotov dispatch: "For the Good of the Working People"]

[Text] Lisbon, 14 Mar--A 2-day conference of the Portuguese Communist Party [PCP] in defense of the nationalized sector of the economy has ended here.

The concluding document of the conference outlines the main paths of the struggle for the defense and development of the nationalized sector: the economic and financial recovery of enterprises; the reorganization of their structures; the granting of credits and subsidies to them; the implementation of a just prices policy; the coordination and planning of the work of nationalized enterprises; additional capital investments; the review of the list of manufactured products; a new orientation of the country's foreign trade; the democratization of management and the extension of worker control. In this struggle, the document notes, a decisive role is played by the working people and their mass organizations.

A. Cunhal, secretary general of the PCP, addressed the final session of the conference. He noted in particular that the conference is a new demonstration of the constructive contribution which the PCP constantly makes to the solution of national problems. Together with the working class and the popular masses it is always ready to pool its efforts with all other democrats, A. Cunhal said. The PCP will continue the struggle in defense of the gains of the revolution.

NATO'S ATTEMPTS TO CEMENT ALLIANCE WITH PORTUGAL CITED

LD151528Y Moscow in Portuguese to Portugal 1830 GMT 14 Mar 78 LD

[Text] A consignment of American M-48 tanks has been sent to Portugal. These tanks will reach the special mechanized brigade on the Portuguese base of Santa Margarida. According to reports, the tanks have been supplied by West Germany, in keeping with the policy of military cooperation among members of NATO.

This report, writes Radio Moscow observer Viktor [name indistinct] cannot go unnoticed. It proves that the NATO commanders are continuing their plan to drag Portugal farther into the strategic and military plans of the North Atlantic bloc.

Reporting the reasons for the increased attention given to Portugal, the INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE writes that it has geopolitical importance, since it controls access to the Mediterranean. The Azores are very important also.

The NATO leaders are modernizing the Portuguese Armed Forces and are training officers and commanders in their camps. As is known, these issues were discussed during the visit to Lisbon by Joseph Luns, NATO secretary general.

NATO naval and air maneuvers were performed off the Portuguese coast. After Luns, many NATO leaders visited Portugal. They held talks in Lisbon on increasing the NATO presence in Portugal.

The Western press names specific military locations in Portugal which could be useful to NATO. They are the bases in Beja, Oporto, Montijo, Azores and Madeira. In Madeira, NATO experts are studying the possible construction of a military base. Portugal, says the London TRIBUNE, is increasing its operations with NATO. Its military expenditure has increased over last year's. This fact should also be noted: The Brussesl NOUVELLES ATLANTIQUES does not conceal that the NATO mechanized brigade in Santa Margarida will intervene in the event Western Europe veers to the left.

In this connection, the repeated statements by General Haig, commander of the united NATO forces in Europe, that NATO does not exclude the possibility of interference in Portugal if Western and NATO interests in this country are threatened, should be recalled. This brigade will be the means for this interference.

Portugal's democratic public opinion opposes the so-called Atlantization of the country. It notes that NATO's policies undermine the agreements which were reached in the security and cooperation conference. The newspaper O DIARIO writes that Portugal is in danger of being dragged into NATO military operations, with all the serious consequences which arise from that. The paper quotes parts of the country's Constitution, which stresses that Portugal favors peaceful settlements of international conflicts, general and controlled disarmament, and the breakup of the political and military blocs.

NATO EXERCISES SEEK TO EXACERBATE MILITARY PSYCHOSIS

LD142108Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1420 GMT 14 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Brussels, 14 March--Hardly has the Belgrade meeting of the representatives of the 35 states that signed the final act of the conference on security and cooperation in Europe come to an end when the NATO leaders have rushed to announce the staging of new military-political exercises called "Hilex-8".

According to a report in the NOUVELLES ATLANTIQUES bulletin these exercises are being staged in all NATO countries except France and Greece which have left the military structure of the bloc. The exercises are again based on a scenario concerning a mythical "Soviet threat," of which everyone is sick and tired of hearing.

The Hilex-8 exercises are being staged as part of the preparations for the session of heads of state and government of the NATO countries scheduled for Washington this May.

At the present time NATO maneuvers in north Norway are coming to an end and maneuvers of the bloc are in full swing on the territory of West Germany. We see here a chain of continuous military exercises in which hundreds of thousands of soldiers and a colossal arsenal of military equipment and arms are involved.

A methodical charging of military psychosis in the NATO countries is concealed behind this demonstration of force.

MORE MATERIAL ON ISRAELI MOVE INTO LEBANON

USSR's Security Council Abstention

LD200936Y Moscow TASS in English 0923 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

[Text] New York, March 20, TASS--The U.N. Security Council has considered Lebanon's complaint at the downright aggression of Israel, which made on the night of March 14-15 a criminal armed attack at the country. The bandit practices of Tel Aviv, which made acts of aggression and terrorism a matter of national policy, have been denounced by the overwhelming majority of the speakers. Representatives of a number of Arab states and also the Palestine Liberation Organization in their speeches have convincingly shown the barbarous character of premeditated attacks by the Israeli military, which is encouraged by forces of international imperialism, at civilian settlements, at Lebanese and Palestinian women and children. The delegations of the USSR and other peace-loving countries fully backed the demands made in these speeches that Tel Aviv's criminal actions should be resolutely denounced, that Israel's aggression be immediately stopped and its troops withdrawn from Lebanon's territory.

In the course of the discussion, the Soviet delegation noted that the U.N. Security Council should most seriously treat the current developments in Lebanon, since this is not a local conflict but a preliminarily planned blow at the Arab national-liberation movement, at the very possibility of attaining a just Middle East settlement.

Nobody can justify the criminal aggressive actions committed by the Israeli military against the sovereign Arab country--Lebanon and the Arab people of Palestine, victims to Israeli expansionism. That has been the keynote of almost all speeches made by participants in the discussion, who resolutely denounced Israel's armed invasion of Lebanon and stated Tel Aviv bears the entire responsibility for the dangerous consequences of a new sharp aggravation of the situation in the Middle East.

After three days in session the Security Council approved of the resolution, which calls upon Israel to immediately stop military actions against Lebanon and withdraw without delay its troops from the whole territory of that country.

The council expressed profound concern at the deterioration of the situation in the Middle East and its consequences for the maintenance of international peace, and pointed out that this stands in the way of attaining a just peace in that area. The council called for respect for territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Lebanon. The resolution envisages immediate formation of a U.N. peace-keeping force in Lebanon. This force will be under direction of the U.N. Security Council.

Nevertheless, the resolution does not contain a downright condemnation of Israel's insolent aggression against Lebanon. The USSR delegation, therefore, abstained from voting. Setting out the Soviet Union's stand, the USSR's permanent representative at the United Nations, Oleg Troyanovskiy, emphasized that in the course of the discussion at the Security Council representatives of many states, both council-members and other countries which participated in its work, stated that the council should resolutely condemn Israel's overt aggression against Lebanon as a crying violation of international peace and security. This must be done in order to stop Israel's aggressive policy against neighbouring Arab states.

The USSR's delegation also would like to state, the Soviet representative said, that the dispatch of the U.N. force to the territory of Lebanon, to meet the Lebanese Government's request, should by no means infringe upon the sovereign rights of the Government of Lebanon, should fully take into account Israel's responsibility, as the aggressor for the actions it has committed.

Unfortunately, these proposals have not been accepted by the U.S. delegation, the author of the draft resolution. In our view, the USSR's representative said, they are absolutely necessary both from the viewpoint of defending the interests of the victims of the Israeli aggression and from the viewpoint of observance of the principles of the U.N. Charter, which define the order of using U.N. troops for maintaining peace and international security.

Considering, however, the request of the Lebanese Government to this effect, the USSR delegation did not prevent adoption of the resolution.

U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim briefed the council on the situation in Lebanon. A tense situation persisted in Lebanon in the past 24 hours, he said. Kurt Waldheim stressed the pressing need of putting an end to the military actions which in his view is the main indispenable condition for ensuring withdrawl of the Israeli troops from Lebanon and bringing peace to that area.

U.S. Support of Israel

LD171755Y Moscow TASS in English 1707 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD

["World Stigmatizes Israeli Aggressors"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 17, TASS--The flames of war, unleashed by the Israeli aggressors, is blazing in Lebanon. The most intensive combat actions have been witnessed in the areas of the settlements of At-Tayyibah, Bint-Jubayl, Rashayya, Al-Fukkhkhar, Tibnin. Israeli aviation continues massive bombings of areas of south Lebanon.

The aggressors do not conceal their aims. The Israeli defence minister, 'Ezer Weizman, in an interview to the American radio-broadcasting corporation ABC, made it clear that Tel Aviv intends to continue escalating military actions and to spread them up to Beirut. He said that his government was after "a total solution" of the Palestinian problem, which in the Israeli "hawks" jargon means physical extermination of the Palestine resistance movement.

Tel Aviv in its actions has down-right support of the United States. The testimony of this is, specifically, yesterday's statement made by a spokesman of the U.S. Department of State, who actually justified Israel's aggression and its occupation of south Lebanon.

With the whole world resolutely demanding immediate termination of the aggression and withdrawal of the Israeli troops from the territory of sovereign Lebanon, the spokesman of the U.S. Department of State actually backed Israel's intention to stay on the captured Lebanese territory: He tried to gear Israeli troops' withdrawl to adoption of the Washington-elaborated proposal on sending to south Lebanon of certain "international forces" and stubornly refused to answer correspondents' questions when in the opinion of the American Government there will be the withdrawal of the aggressor's troops from the territory of Lebanon.

Seemingly, Washington's only worry is whether the latest developments will make worse the unenviable position of the Egyptian President--the bearer of the U.S. policy in the Middle East, who by his course of separate deals was conducive to the current Israeli aggression against Lebanon. The London newspaper TIMES points out in this connection that As-Sadat's political reputation starts looking rather pitiful, if one is to take into consideration what a blow the Israeli aggression struck on his policy and that he was denounced by the Arab countries as a betrayer of their common cause. But meanwhile Israeli aggressors continue killing in cold-blood peaceful residents in Lebanon.

Israel's aggression, atrocities of Israeli military in south Lebanon, the United States' direct complicity with the aggressor have given rise to storm of indignation in the whole world.

Representatives of Libya and Democratic Yemen have demanded immediate convocation of a meeting of the U.N. Security Council to make answerable the overwhelming aggressor and put an end to Israel's armed raids against Arab peoples.

The scope and the character of Israeli actions in south Lebanon show that their aim is annexation of south Lebanese areas under the pretext of establishing the so-called "security belt", says a statement issued by the permanent secretariat of the Organization for Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity. The permanent secretariat reaffirms that the Israeli ruling circles would not be able to carry out such a policy, had it not been for economic, political and military support from world imperialism, above all from the United States.

The general secretariat of the National-Progressive (left) Party of the Arab Republic of Egypt stresses in its statement that "Israel's new aggression is under way with full and downright collusion with the United States of America".

Israel's intrusion has been strongly denounced by the Israeli parliament's faction, the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, which comprises the Communist Party of Israel.

Cairo's Isolationist Policy

LD172028Y Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD

[Aleksandr Timoshkin commentary: "The Israeli Aggression Against Lebanon Is Mounting"]

[Text] First of all I wish to add my voice to the voices of those who are strongly denouncing Israel's aggression against Lebanon and the killing of the hundreds of Palestinians and Lebanese and the destruction of their homes. There is no justification whatsoever for this heinous crime. Undoubtedly the responsibility for this crime falls first and foremost on the Zionist Israeli leadership, which openly pursues a policy of genocide against the Palestinian Arab people. It is quite natural that the UN General Assembly should brand Zionist theory and practice as racism that is denounced by progressives throughout the world. At the same time the responsibility for the treacherous aggression against Lebanon and for the killing of the peaceful people is shared by U.S. circles that supply the Israeli military with the most sophisticated weapons and use every means to encourage Tel Aviv to continue its policy of aggression and usurpation against the Arab peoples.

Secretary of State Vance has admitted that prior to the start of the aggression against Lebanon the United States had received a message from Israeli Prime Minister Begin. Vance also told the press that the United States did not call for a halt to the aggression and that such a decision should be made by the Israelis themselves. Begin replied that Israeli forces will remain in Lebanese territory. Furthermore, Tel Aviv declared that a buffer security zone will be established along the Lebanese borders, where long-term fortifications will be built. Thus Israel has already made a decision. It is understood from Vance's statement that the United States has no intention of opposing this decision.

I note that a number of Arab leaders have addressed messages to President Carter requesting him to put pressure on Israel to withdraw from Lebanon. Cairo is being repeatedly mentioned in the context of the Israeli aggression and the comments on it published in the Arab and Western press.

It is said, for example, that such a criminal action against Lebanon would not have been possible had it not been for the U.S. support and that it is the byproduct of the isolationist policy of the Egyptian leadership, which in practice removed the biggest Arab country from the front against the aggressors and pursued a line of capitulation detrimental to the interests of the Arab national liberation struggle.

A statement issued by TASS said that Israel's aggression against Lebanon is a premediated blow against the Arab national liberation front and is aimed at undermining the chances of a just settlement in the Middle East. The core of the settlement has been and still is restoration of the national rights of the Palestinian people.

Even the United States had to admit this fact clearly. But Cairo continues to move away from a sound solution to this extremely persistent problem. What is worse is that Cairo has recently virtually acted together with the Israeli aggressors in antagonizing the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestine people. Cairo no longer demands retrieval of the minimum rights of the Palestine Arab people, one of which is their right to set up their own independent state.

Finally, Egyptian official authorities and propaganda have been waging a campaign against the Palestinians using acts of discrimination and oppression against the 100,000 Palestinians who had taken up shelter in Egypt.

In the light of these clear facts, it is extremely odd to see the Egyptian official quarters and propaganda trying to distort the position of the USSR toward the Israeli aggression against Lebanon, particularly since the Soviet position has been clearly defined beyond any misinterpretation in the official statement issued by TASS, which said that the USSR strongly denounces the Israeli armed aggression against Lebanon and appeals to all those who cherish peace to unify their efforts to end the Israeli aggression and secure the immediate withdrawal of its forces from Lebanese territory.

Importance of Geneva Conference

LD090856Y Moscow TASS in English 0823 GMT 19 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 19, TASS--The whole world witnesses a large-scale military intervention and de facto occupation of a considerable part of territory of another Arab country, Boris Orekhov, the author of an international review, writes in PRAVDA.

A situation that is fraught with the most serious consequences has formed in the Middle East. Unless measures are taken for immediate ending of the aggression and undelayed withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanese territory, the situation might be aggravated still more and might result in involvement in the conflict of other Arab states.

The question arises what encouraged Israel to so dangerous a step that jeopardizes the destiny of peace in the Middle East.

Let us recall the joint Soviet-American statement on the Middle East that was published in October of last year. In that statement both sides confirmed that the Geneva peace conference is the only right and effective road of ensuring cardinal solution of the Middle East problem. Now it becomes obvious that signing this important statement, the United States actually continued orienting itself at solving the problem through separate talks, seeking to split the Arab world. All its actions since that time show that Israel was and remains the United States' main ally in the Middle East.

For a long time Israel's policy is based on its striving to defeat its enemies separately, one-by-one, Boris Orekhov writes. Israel is backed by the United States in conducting this policy.

Over a long time, Israel has been stubbornly resisting convocation of the Geneva peace conference. The reason for this stubbornness is easy to see: Tel Aviv finds it easier to achieve its maximalist annexationist demands along the road of separate deals, while in Geneva Israel would be opposed by a united front of Arab states supported by the conference's co-chairman, the Soviet Union. The situation that formed in the Middle East as a result of the Egyptian-Israeli separate line with the United States' support shows again that it is only resolute rejection by these states of the line at separate deals and keeping from actions bypassing the Geneva mechanism, only the Geneva conference that can lead to a just settlement and establishment of a durable and lasting peace in the area, PRAVDA's review says.

PLO Views

LD171121Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[Correspondent K. Geyvandov dispatch: "Israeli Aggression Against Lebanon"]

[Text] Beirut, 15 March--Lebanese Prime Minister S. al-Huss has called the invasion by Israeli troops of the south of the country unprovoked criminal aggression against a sovereign state. According to news reports up to 35,000 soldiers and officers are taking part in the military operations on the Tel Aviv side.

At PLO headquarters in Beirut we were informed that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Y. 'Arafat has sent the heads of the Arab states an urgent message appealing to them to share together with the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples the "present historical responsibility in order to repel this unprecedentedly large military attack pursuing the aim, as Begin himself stated, of destroying the Palestinian people and the population of south Lebanon and eliminating our heroic revolutionaries."

PLO spokesman Abu Yusuf has noted in conversations that Palestinian partisans and detachments of Lebanese national patriotic forces are offering firm resistence to the aggressors, despite their numerical and military superiority, inflicting substantial losses of men and equipment on the Israelis. "The Israeli authorities' aim in the present aggression is perfectly obvious," he stated. "It is to try to destroy the vanguard of the Palestinian people--the PLO--to thwart the Palestinians' struggle for restoration of their violated rights, and to continue the Israeli ruling circles' policy of annexation and expansion by seizing a large area of Lebanese territory. Finally it is an attempt to strike a blow at the forces of the Arab world that are firmly opposing the capitulationist plans for a Near East settlement which the United States, Israel and As-Sadat are trying to impose on the Arabs."

As these lines are being written active political consultations are taking place in the Lebanese capital between representatives of the Lebanese Government and the ambassadors of the great powers accredited there, with the aim of putting a stop to Israel's criminal aggression against Lebanon.

Number of Refugees

LD181236Y Moscow TASS in English 1223 GMT 18 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Beirut, March 18, TASS--The stream of refugees from Lebanon's southern areas is growing from day to day.

Fleeing brutal bombing and shelling, they go to major towns in the country's central part. The number of refugees has reached 70,000 and is growing incessantly.

The local authorities are making great efforts for ensuring accomodation for them. With this aim in view school buildings are vacated and tent camps are made. Refugees are supplies with food and necessaries. Committees of solidarity and aid to the victims of brutalities of Israeli aggressors are being set up.

LIBYA SEEKS CONVOCATION OF ANTICAPITULATION CONFERENCE

LD191756Y Moscow TASS in English 1723 GMT 19 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 19, TASS--Libya called for an urgent convocation of a conference of the foreign ministers of progressive Arab countries and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, members of the front for struggle against the capitulatory policy of Egyptian President as-Sadat towards a separate settlement with Israel. The Libyan Government proposed to discuss at the conference the situation resulting from the Israeli aggression against Lebanon and measures to curb the aggressors.

Front participants are Libya, Algeria, Syria, Democratic Yemen and the PLO.

SOVIET, SYRIAN OFFICIALS LAUD COOPERATION

LD171218Y Moscow TASS in English 1125 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Damascus, March 17 TASS--The Soviet Union and the Syrian Arab Republic have laid a sound foundation for the further development of their all-round cooperation of many years in various fields. The Euphrates hydroengineering complex, which is to be officially inaugurated on March 18, is the backbone of the Syrian national economy.

Fruitful ties between the two countries have helped strengthen the Syrian national economy and laid a good foundation for its successful development in the future. This was stated by George Haurania, the Syrian minister of state for planning. He was speaking at the ceremony of signing a protocol on the results of talks here on the state and prospect of cooperation between the two countries. The talks were held within the framework of the Soviet-Syrian permanent commission on economic and technical cooperation.

The Euphrates hydroengineering complex, which was built with Soviet assistance within pre-set time limits and at a high standard, is a model of fruitful cooperation between the two countries, said G. Haurania. He expressed confidence that the talks will facilitate the further development of all-round cooperation between the SAR [Syrian Arab Republic] and the USSR in accordance with the Soviet-Syrian communique on the results of President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to the Soviet Union.

The leader of the Soviet delegation to the talks, S.A. Skachkov, chairman of the State Committee of the USSR Council of Ministers for Foreign Economic Relations, and G. Haurania, the leader of the Syrian delegation, said in their statements that the talks were held in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding.

During the talks the two sides summed up the results of all-round cooperation between them and outlined ways of further developing it. This will be facilitated by strong relations of friendship and cooperation between the SAR and the USSR which have particularly grown stronger lately.

Al-Asad Remarks

LD191451Y Moscow TASS in English 1423 GMT 19 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Damascus, March 19, TASS--We are deeply grateful for invaluable assistance that was rendered us by the friendly Soviet Union in the implementation of a great project on the Euphrates, Syria's president, Hafiz al-Asad, said at the ceremony devoted to the conclusion of the construction of the Euphrates hydropower complex. He stressed that the important economic project that has been commissioned is regarded by the country's leadership as an effective means of consolidating national economy, of making radical transformations in the life of the people.

Due to the Euphrates complex, Syria received a reliable source of electricity and water for irrigation of arid lands and trained a great number of skilled specialists.

The successful conclusion of the construction of the complex, the president said, is a victory of the Syrian people over the forces of imperialism that sought to frustrate implementation of the project and also to suppress the Syrians' will and striving for construction of new life, for progress, the president said. He said that this victory was won as a result of friendship and cooperation between the Syrian and Soviet peoples, whose relations are based on mutual respect and mutual advantage.

Hafiz al-Asad highly assessed the work of Soviet specialists at the construction of the complex. On behalf of the Syrian people and leadership of the Arab Socialist Rennaissance Party, he warmly thanked the USSR for its assistance.

In his speech, the Syrian president touched upon the situation in Lebanon where Israel's large-scale aggression continues. He stressed that nothing, including Israeli invasion, can ever make Syria give up supporting the Palestinian resistance movement. Hafiz al-Asad said that Arabs must do everything within their power to repulse the aggression, which is spearheaded against the entire Arab nation. The president assured that Syria will always be in the vanguard of the fighters against any anti-Arab sorties, will never take the road of capitulating to the aggressor.

AUCCTU GREETS SYRIAN TRADE UNION ON ANNIVERSARY

LD180802Y Moscow TASS in English 0717 GMT 18 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 18, TASS--The USSR Central Council of Trade Unions has sent a telegram of greetings on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of founding of the General Federation of Labor Unions of Syria.

The past years are indisputable proof of the great contribution made by the working people of the Syrian Arab Republic to the cause of the country's progressive national development in the interests of peace and international security, freedom and independence of peoples, to the common struggle of peoples against the forces of imperialism, Zionism and reaction, says the telegram. We wish your organization successes in the struggle being waged by the working people and the peoples of the Arab countries with the active support of the world progressive trade union movement for a comprehensive and just Middle East settlement on the basis of withdrawal of the Israeli troops from all the Arab territories occupied by them in 1967 and the exercise of the inalienable national rights of the Arab people of Palestine, the telegram of greetings says.

TURKISH, GREEK RAPPROCHEMENT BLOCKED BY U.S., NATO

NC171401Y Moscow in Turkish to Turkey 1830 GMT 17 Mar 78 NC

[Yuriy Kharlanov commentary]

[Text] In my talk I would like to draw your attention to the Turkish-Greek summit talks which have begun in Montreux, Switzerland. According to the Turkish Foreign Ministry statement, the two sides will discuss their relations, which have been strained in the past few years, and will seek just, reasonable and mutually convenient solutions to the existing disputes between Turkey and Greece. The proper conditions exist to hold constructive talks on difficult problems and to make mutually convenient decisions. The detente process is gaining strength around the world, particularly after the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. The final document of this conference was also signed by Turkish and Greek representatives. In accordance with this document, countries whose representatives attended the conference must direct their efforts toward the development of friendly relations and cooperation.

There are other major conditions for the elimination of the tension observed in Turkish-Greek relations, conditions created by the elimination of the fascist dictatorship imposed by the military junta in Greece. A new government, formed under Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit, has stated many times that it will give top priority to the normalization of Turkish-Greek relations.

The peaceful settlement of the disputes between Turkey and Greece is, naturally and primarily, in the interests of the peoples of these two countries. These peoples have lived in peace and friendship for decades. Peace-loving nations, including the Soviet Union, want the peaceful settlement of these disputes. As everybody knows, the Soviet Union, which has been exerting great efforts for international detente, has always advocated and continues to advocate the establishment of the Mediterranean Sea and the Aegean Sea as regions of peace. The position of the North Atlantic bloc is completely different. This bloc, which has established military bases in Turkey and Greece, is increasing the arms race in the Eastern Mediterranean. The ringleaders of this bloc want the Turkish-Greek conflict (?to develop) in a way which will subjugate these countries further to NATO's aggressive objectives.

The Turkish papers have discussed this subject many times. For example, according to the daily (?MILLIYET), one function of the NATO bases is to intervene militarily in the internal affairs of the region and to form balances of power to link these countries to NATO's military plans. With these objectives in mind, the U.S. and NATO imperialists are conducting provocative maneuvers in the Mediterranean and are summoning Turkey and Greece to these maneuvers.

These acts are causing deep suspicion among the Turkish and Greek peoples. Reflecting this state, the Istanbul press has often declared that the Turkish nation does not want to join in the militarization of its country and the arms race imposed by NATO ringleaders, but would rather spend money and effort on the development of the country.

The Greek public agrees. According to the daily, RIZOSPASTIS, the Greek people want a peaceful and just solution to problems with Turkey.

The workers and peoples of the two countries have nothing in their relations to divide them. But they do have a common enemy, the imperialists of the United States and NATO. This enemy is trying to interfere in the Turkish-Greek disputes in every way, and is trying to eliminate these disputes in order to seal the gap in NATO's south-eastern flank and to solve the Aegean problem according to NATO's interests.

It is clear that the talks between Turkey and Greece for a peaceful solution of the major, difficult problems between them are in the interests of the peoples of both countries.

ISTANBUL UNIVERSITY VIOLENCE PROMPTS ECEVIT CONDEMNATION

LD180246Y Moscow TASS in English 1655 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Ankara, March 17, TASS--Fascist-mongering thugs perpetrated another crime within the walls of Istanbul University, the biggest in Turkey. They hurled a bomb and machinegun-fired a group of medical faculty students, killing 6 and wounding about 60. The criminals were not apprehended.

Turkish Prime Minister B. Ecevit strongly condemned the outrage and underlined that the government will take every measure to cut short such actions.

The dean's office of Istanbul University decided to suspend lectures for the time being. The paper POLITIKA reports that some 10,000 students refused to leave the university campus, demanding an immediate end to violence that is on the rampage in the country.

TURKISH MINISTER OF COMMERCE STRESSES TIES TO USSR

LD181148Y Moscow TASS in English 1107 GMT 18 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Ankara, March 18, TASS--(TASS correspondent Aleksey Yerovchenkov).

"The Turkish Government is striving to deepen many-faceted relations with the Soviet Union, specifically commercial and economic relations," Turkey's minister of commerce, Tedman Koprululer, told the TASS correspondent. We believe that cooperation with such a powerful industrialized country as the USSR will promote development of Turkey's economy, the minister said.

Tedman Koprululer pointed with satisfaction to the fact that the trade turnover between the two countries is growing with every year. We wish sincerely that mutually advantageous cooperation of our countries should strengthen constantly and assume an ever wider scope, the minister said.

BRIEFS

TALKS WITH TURKEY--Ankara, March 15, TASS--A joint Soviet-Turkish commission on delineation of the sea frontier between territorial waters of the USSR and Turkey on the Black Sea has resumed its work here. The commission will consider and discuss contract designs of beacons, prepared by the two sides, and also questions of documentation pertaining to the Soviet-Turkish sea frontier line. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 1300 GMT 15 Mar 78 LD]

FURTHER MATERIAL ON HORN OF AFRICA CONFLICT

Ethiopian-Somali Relations

ID171224Y Moscow TASS in English 1206 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa, March 17 TASS--Ethiopia is prepared to re-establish relations with Somalia. But to normalize relations between the two countries it is necessary for Somalia to abandon unconditionally its claims to the territories of the neighbouring countries, said Fikre-Selasie Wodgeres, general secretary of the Provisional Military Administrative Council of Ethiopia. He also said that to settle the situation in the Horn of Africa Somalia should observe the principles recorded in the charters of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity.

U.S. Arms

ID181308Y Moscow TASS in English 1247 GMT 18 Mar 78 LD

["Intentions That Cause Concern"--TASS headline]

[Text] Addis Ababa, March 18, TASS--The ETHIOPIAN NEWS AGENCY published a commentary in connection with a statement of the U.S. Department of State concerning the United States' readiness to supply U.S. armaments to Somalia. This statement, the ETHIOPIAN NEWS AGENCY says, is tantamount to the support of Somalia's aggression against Ethiopia and is also assessed as an attempt to preserve tensions in the Horn of Africa through assisting Mogadiscio which makes territorial claims to Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti.

Somalia so far has not publicly renounced its expansionst policy which is one of the main reasons of the armed conflict in the Horn of Africa, the agency stressed. The defeat of the Somali troops in itself does not guarantee a long-term solution of the problem. Mogadiscio has an opportunity to regroup its troops and prepare a new aggression. The Siad Barre regime was constantly building up military might allegedly for purposes of self-defence, but in reality for purposes of aggression and territorial aquisitions, the agency said. It acted in this way in the past and there are no guarantees that it will not embark on this road again. So the United States' readiness to supply armaments to Somalia can only be regarded as a deliberate encouragement of a new aggression against the Ethiopian revolution and Ethiopia's territorial integrity. It shows that the United States conducts a policy hostile to the revolutionary Ethiopia. The best guarantee of peace in the Horn of Africa is giving up completely all expansionist aspirations, respect for state frontiers and observance of the fundamental principles of the charters of the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity.

London, March 18 TASS--Contrary to declarations of the present U.S. administration about a "new approach" to Africa's problems, it continues conducting its former course in relations with African countries. This policy is based on large deliveries of armaments to regimes that suit the United States. This conclusion is made by the magazine NEW AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT that appears in London. The magazine stresses that the United States has played an unsavoury role in stirring up a conflict between Somalia and Ethiopia, supplying through its allies in the Middle and Near East large consignments of military equipment for the Somalian Army which were used in the war against Ethiopia.

Cubans in Ethiopia

ID181802Y Moscow in English to Africa 1500 GMT 18 Mar 78 ID

[Text] The Cuban leader, Fidel Castro, addresssing a public rally in Havana, talked among other things about his country's considerable military assistance to Ethiopia. Here is a comment from our observer, Georgiy Tanov:

The assistance came at a time when it was a matter of life or death for the Ethiopian revolution and when the very existence of independent Ethiopia was at stake. The situation did not differ in essence from what happened in Angola between 1975 and 1976, when reactionary forces launched a similar attempt to do away with the Angolan revolution and the soverign People's Republic of Angola. And in both cases Cuba and other socialist countries gave all-round assistance to the victims of aggression, including effective strengthening (?of) their defense capability.

Such actions are fully in line with the principles of the United Nations and the OAU and a spirit of normal friendly relations among states. For example, leading Kenyan officials, who can hardly be suspected of particular attachment to socialist Cuba, have more than once underlined of late that Ethiopia has every right to secure any assistance to protect her independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. In this case, the understanding of aggression and a threat of its escalation proved to be stronger than the recipes of Western provocative anti-Cuban campaign. Those who orchestrate and execute that campaign have rather strange logic. If Belgian paratroopers are dropped from American warplanes, as was the case in Zaire in 1964, this is described (?as) the protection of Europeans and their families. If, on the other hand, the Cubans help the Angolan people to beat off an offensive of the domestic reactionaries, coordinated by the United States and other NATO countries, this is labeled interference in Africa's internal affairs.

When Somalia's elite armed forces thrust deep into Ethiopian territory, this is just a conflict on ethical grounds, if we are to believe Western propaganda. Yet when the Cubans came to the aid of the Ethiopian people and their army, this is described as destabilization, the dangerous expansion of the seat of tension, and so on and so forth. Aggression and the seat of war in the Horn of Africa has been localized and reduced in intensity not by Somali soldiers, not by Egyptian pilots, not by Saudi military supply officers, or American advisers. That has been done by the Ethiopian people and their army with the help of the socialist countries. And it is for that that Cubans shed their blood on the scorched Ethiopian soil.

However, there is more to it than that. This other aspect to the problem has been kindly revealed for us by none other than Mr Andrew Young, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. Speaking in an interview for the NEWSWEEK magazine, Mr Young said he did not believe Cuba had sent her troops to Africa on orders from the Russians. In his view, Cubans stay in Africa because Cuba herself has experienced colonial oppression and is determined to fight colonialism. We can add to this that Cuba has experienced more than this. She has gone through aggression and downright intervention. The peacemakers in Washington somehow forget that it was from their country that Cuban counterrevolutionaries have attacked Cuba and that it is in their country that plans were hatched with CIA participation to liquidate Cuba's leaders and revolutionary activists.

Some people would like to prepare the same lot for the progressive countries in Africa, in particular Angola and Ethiopia. They would like to turn Angola into another Namibia, to snatch pieces of Ethiopian territory and return the monarch's throne to the curtailed [as heard] country. And one can only appreciate a statement made by Fidel Castro, who said the Cuban internationalist soldiers acted efficiently in Angola and Ethiopia, the way they would have done if they were fighting for their own country. And one can also appreciate the sincere gratitude to Cuba and other socialist states expressed in the countries threatened with the danger of enslavement.

CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER TALKS WITH ETHIOPIAN OFFICIALS

Cooperation Discussed

LD182322Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2026 GMT 18 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa--Isidoro Malmierca, Cuban minister of foreign relations who is on an official visit to Ethiopia, today had a meeting with Fikre-Selassie Wodgeres, secretary-general of the Provisional Military Administrative Council of Ethiopia. According to the ETHIOPIAN NEWS AGENCY, they exchanged views on the development of fraternal relations between the two countries and also on a number of international questions. Earlier, Isidoro Malmierca held talks with Feleke Gedle-Giorgis, Ethiopian minister of foreign affairs.

The Cuban delegation has begun discussions with the Ethiopian side on questions of extending cooperation between the two countries in the sphere of the economy and culture.

Reception Held

LD191444Y Moscow TASS in English 1414 GMT 19 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa, March 19, TASS--The Ethiopian people are determined to advance along the road of the construction of new society, to make socialism daily reality, said Ethiopia's foreign minister, Feleke Gedle-Giorgis. He spoke at a reception held here in honour of Cuba's foreign minister, Isidoro Malmierca Peoli, now staying here on an official visit. The Ethiopian foreign minister stressed that the Ethiopian revolution is an inalienable part of peoples' struggle against imperialism, colonialism and fascism.

The successes of our revolution, our relations with fraternal socialist countries whose interests and policy coincide with Ethiopia's interests and policy, cause irritation of Western imperialist circles that would like to preserve their influence in Africa so as to continue plundering its natural wealth, Feleke Gedle-Giorgis said. The minister expressed gratitude to socialist countries for assistance and support given to Ethiopia.

Isidoro Malmierca Peoli pointed out, in his turn, that the victory won by the Ethiopian working people is of great importance for the entire continent. Ethiopia is now faced with new important tasks, the tasks of construction, and Cuba sees its duty in cooperating with African peoples fighting for progress and national development, he said.

Ethiopian Policy

LD201004Y Moscow TASS in English 1000 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

["In the Interests of Peace and Stability"--TASS headline]

[Text] Addis Ababa, March 20, TASS--Together with the progressive forces of Africa and freedom loving peoples of the whole world, Ethiopia is waging consistently the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neocolonialism, for peace, democracy and social progress. This was stated by General Secretary of the Provisional Military Administrative Council of Ethiopia Fikre-Selassie Wodgeres, when he was receiving Cuba's Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca Peoli, now on an official visit here.

He said that Ethiopia's policy is aimed at cooperation and maintaining good relations with all countries. We have no claims to territories of neighbouring countries. Ethiopia is striving to establish peace and stability in the area of the Horn of Africa and fully supports the efforts of peace forces aimed at achieving this goal.

Ethiopia is ready to support any initiatives of the Organisation of African Unity in the interests of ensuring durable peace in the Horn of Africa. This can be achieved, Fikre-Selassie Wodgeres said, provided that Somalia gives up its claims to territories of neighbouring countries, pledges to respect internationally recognised state frontiers and the charters of the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity, keeps from interfering in internal affairs of other countries.

He emphasised the readiness of the Ethiopian people to uphold the gains of the revolution and the country's territorial integrity.

ETHIOPIA REPORTS MORE ARRESTS OF SUBVERSIVES

LD181912Y Moscow TASS in English 1405 GMT 18 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa, March 18, TASS--The Ethiopian authorites continue the struggle against counter-revolutionary elements that try to oppose the process of radical social and economic transformations in the country. The ETHIOPIAN NEWS AGENCY reports that over 270 members of a gang uniting subversive elements of different stripe were arrested in the recent days in Shawa, Gondar and Sidamo provinces. Dumps of armaments and explosives belonging to the gang were discovered.

ZIMBABWE FIGHTERS RESOLVE TO CONTINUE FIGHT

LD191850Y Moscow TASS in English 1540 GMT 19 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Maputo, March 19, TASS--Zimbabwe freedom fighters are resolved to carry on the armed struggle until Smith's illegal regime is eliminated and the Zimbabwe people attains genuine independence, says a statement by the leadership of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front.

The "internal settlement" in Rhodesia and the formation of puppet administrative bodies under Smith's supervision, the statement stresses, is nothing but an attempt to perpetuate the racist regime. The agreement reached by Smith with the African puppets, actually changes nothing. All the repressive institutions--the police, the army, the law enforcing system and the administrative apparatus--remain in the hands of the white minority. Smith is trying to mislead world public opinion by creating a semblance of transferring power to the African majority.

Smith has no right to negotiate on behalf of the people, states the Patriotic Front. Taking part in the negotiations must be the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front as the only legitimate representative of the African majority. The statement points out that 80 percent of the country's territory is now involved in armed struggle. The racists' military and strategic facilities are continuously being attacked, just as their communication lines and army garrisons. For instance, a number of military bases have been routed. The railways are operating with great delays. Actions by the freedom fighters seriously disrupted the economy of the racist regime and caused a steep rise of panicky sentiment' among the white settlers. Peaceful life is being organized in the liberated areas, the statement says, with the establishment of provisional bodies of power. Schools and medical stations are being built.

MALAWI DENIES IT RECOGNIZED SALISBURY AGREEMENT

LD181758Y Moscow TASS in English 1742 GMT 18 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Lusaka, March 18, TASS--The Government of Malawi refuted the reports that it had allegedly recognized the agreement signed in Salisbury on "internal settlement" in Rhodesia. As the ZANA news agency reported today,the Malawi Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement which points out that the source of such reports is Sithole, one of the puppet African leaders who signed the disgraceful agreements with Smith. Malawi, the statement says, seeking to introduce clarity to the matter, is stating that such assertions are utterly wrong. Malawi did not recognize the agreement signed in Salisbury.

ANGOLAN PARTY'S INTERNATIONAL OBJECTIVES LISTED

LD180300Y Moscow TASS in English 2036 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD

["The Main Direction in Party's Activities"--TASS headline]

[Text] Luanda, March 17, TASS--To develop and strengthen the relations with the international working class movement and the Marxist-Leninist party's is (?the) main objective in the sphere of international relations set by the MPLA-Workers Party in a programme, adopted at the party's congress. Consolidation of the relations of friendship and mutual cooperation with the countries of the socialist community, the document says, will be one of the main directions in the party's activities.

Being an internationalist party,the programme points out, the MPLA-Workers Party actively supports the national-liberation movements of the African, Asian and Latin American peoples, their struggle against international imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism and racism, paying particular attention to effective support of the liberation struggle waged by the peoples in the south of Africa.

The MPLA (?Workers) Party fully associates itself with the struggle waged by the working people of the whole world for peace, freedom and social (?reform). The programme expresses readiness to develop the republic's [words indistinct] countries of the world, irrespective of their social systems, on the basis of mutual respect for sovereignty, national independence, territorial integrity, renunciation of aggression and interference into internal affairs, equality, mutual benefit and peaceful coexistence. The MPLA-Workers Party comes out against the existence of aggressive military blocs.

To strengthen unity of all peoples of the African Continent and friendship with progressive African states is one of the most important international objectives of the party.

The programme proclaims the desire of the MPLA--Workers Party to promote cohesion of the Marxist-Leninist parties and their stronger unity. "This is the main condition for the ultimate triumph of socialism in the whole world", the document says.

ANGOLAN REVOLUTION COMMEMORATED, STRUGGLE CONTINUES

LD161009Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Mar 78 Morning Edition p 5 LD

[N. Paklin report: "A Fresh Breeze"]

[Excerpts] Luanda/Moscow--The Angolan people's path to independence was long and hard. On 4 February, Angola celebrated the 17th anniversary of the start of the armed struggle. The flame of the uprising was kindled in Luanda--the country's ardent heart. "The madness of the brave" is how the heroic storming of the Sao Paulo Prison--a former colonialist fortress--by a group of patriots appears through the haze of the years. On 11 November 1975 Angolan independence was proclaimed in Luanda, which was beseiged by the enemy. And now, right in the center of the city, an armored transport vehicle with deep dents in the sides--one of those which took part in the battles around the capital--stands on a white stone pedestal. The new memorial, in keeping with the revolutionary epoch, replaced the old statute which personified colonialism for the Angolans.

The Angolan people were not alone in repelling imperialist aggression in 1975. They were firmly supported by the Soviet Union, Cuba and other socialist countries. On posters surviving from the war, here and there you can see soldiers of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola alongside Cuban volunteers routing the aggressors who tried to forcefully overthrow the Angolan revolution.

Today, most of the posters bear appeals for peaceful, creative work. The posters depict workers, peasants, dock workers and sometimes the branch of a coffee tree is depicted lyrically and touchingly. But even then the caption is dynamic, as is fitting for a poster: "Coffee Is Our Life, Our Wealth. Everyone for the Harvest!"

Attempts to hinder the peaceful, creative life of the people are being made by the enemies of the Angola revolution, splinter groups with pretentious titles, which have been thrown out of the country--the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA), headed by political adventurer and CIA agent H. Roberto, and the National Union for the Total Liberation of Angola (UNITA), led by J. Savimbi, enlisted by the CIA. FNLA bands carry out provocations in northern border regions of Angola and UNITA bands in the south. Another hostile group, calling itself the Front for the Liberation of the Cabinda Enclave, is active on the borders of Zaire. From time to time the brigands send subversive groups deep into Angola. Behind the traitors to the Angolan people are Western imperialist circles, which are still hoping to turn back the development of events in Angola. They receive direct support from the South African racists, who take part in provocative sorties against revolutionary Angola. Also, the authorities in neighboring Zaire permit territory to be used for the formation of new FNLA gangs, and Zaire troops encroach into Angola.

Recently reports have appeared in the Western press on the recruitment of white mercenaries by the splinter groups, to take part in the combat actions against People's Angola. London has become one of the main recruitment centers, from where, a few years ago, "Colonel" Callan brought his cutthroats to Angola. For its direct participants the venture either ended fatally or with the mercenaries being taken prisoner. The myth of their "invincibility" was reduced to dust and ashes. The court, which was held in Luanda to try the latter-day Landsknechts, described mercenary fighting as an international crime. Callan and his assistants did not escape serious punishment for the crimes they committed. New mercenaries setting out for "easy money" in Angola should remember that.

The Peking authorities are continuing to support the splinter groups and are supplying them with weapons. In the second half of February the British newspaper THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH reported that groups of Chinese military advisers and technical specialists have arrived in UNITA camps. The newspaper notes in this connection: "Attempts are being made to make this latest interference as unostentatious as possible.... It would not suit China at all if it were divulged that, along with South Africa, it is reequipping UNITA armed detachments and giving them support." Also among the direct enemies of the Angolan revolution are Pinochet's cutthroats. It has become known to Western diplomats in Luanda that several hundred Chilean mercenaries, recruited with South African money, are training UNITA detachments. This information is also confirmed by the Western press.

The working people are responding to the intrigues of the enemies of the Angolan revolution with increased vigilance. Armed with machine guns and in blotchy camouflage uniforms, soldiers patrol city streets with members of the People's Defense Organization, and check points have been set up on roads. Modern armed forces are being rapidly created in the country. Speaking at a rally in the city of Cuito recently, A. Neto, president of Angola and chairman of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola [MPLA] Labor Party, stated: "We are always ready to defend the gains of the Angolan revolution. If enemies force us to do so, we will take up arms again and will win."

....The young people's republic has complex, planned tasks to complete. But the people of Angola, guided by their combat vanguard--the MPLA-Labor Party, are confidently treading the path of creation oriented toward socialism. They have on their side the sympathy, support and solidarity of the Soviet Union, the other countries of socialism and all anti-imperialist forces.

In the evenings, when the neon lights of store windows and signs glow in Luanda, a fresh breeze suddenly begins to blow. It brings cool air and then breathing becomes very easy and free. The right to breathe deeply has been earned and won by the Angolian people in stubborn struggle.

TASS REPORTS BHUTTO'S DEATH SENTENCE

LD180941Y Moscow TASS in English 0939 GMT 18 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Islamabad, March 18, TASS--The court in the Pakistani city of Lahore has passed today a verdict in the case of chairman of the Pakistan People's Party, former Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and four former officials of the security service. The court recognized them guilty of complicity in political murder and sentenced to death.

Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto is denying the charge made against him.

The decision of the court can be appealed against in the course of seven days.

IZVESTIYA COMMENTS ON IMPROVED RELATIONS IN ASIA

LD131946Y Moscow TASS in English 1625 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 13, TASS--"Diplomatic moves of the last few months indicate that the process of settlement of differences and disputed questions between states is gaining strength in South Asia", IZVESTIYA's commentator writes.

President M. Daud of Afghanistan has ended his state visit to Pakistan. This visit attracted attention for two reasons. Firstly, because it was a successful one. The second meeting between the leaders of the two countries [was held] within a short period of time, and it consolidated the trend toward the normalization of relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan after many years of mutual [word indistinct] and distrust.

Secondly, these useful and productive talks in Islamabad were a continuation of the general process of normalization in South Asia which has a population of over [figure indistinct] million.

It stands to reason that such a warming-up of the political climate in South Asia would be impossible without the goodwill of all countries of the region. But an especially important part in this respect was played by India, the biggest Asian power, the commentator says. There the statement made by Indian Minister for External Affairs A.B. Vajpayee to the effect that he had visited Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan and Burma in line with the wish of the Indian Government to develop friendly relations between India and its neighbours, naturally met with support and approval among broad public circles in the region.

Another important factor for the normalization of the situation in the subcontinent was the talk held in recent months by the leaders of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

ESCAP BANGKOK SESSION CONSIDERS DETENTE IN ASIA

LD171105Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[Correspondent I. Shchedrov report: "Peace and Progress are Indivisible"]

[Text] Bangkok, 15 March--The general discussion has ended at the 34th session of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific [ESCAP]. The attention of those taking part centered on a discussion of the specific problems in extending detente to this region, establishing all-round cooperation on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence, and safeguarding peace and security through collective efforts.

As many speeches noted, the socialist countries are making an important contribution to this. Indicative of this was the election of Hoang Bich Son, head of the Vietnamese delegation and deputy foreign minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, as vice president of the session.

The general situation in Asia and Pacific region has improved recently, he noted in his speech at the session, because the intrigues of imperialism and neocolonialism have been successfully thwarted by the people's joint efforts.

The experience of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries and of a number of developing states, V.I. Cheredenik, head of the Soviet delegation said, confirms the decisive significance of a firm national economy in resolving the acute social tasks which face many countries of the region. We believe, he continued, that ESCAP's strategy should be aimed at safeguarding the fundamental long-term interests of the broad people's masses in Asia and the Pacific. The Soviet Union, he continued, invariably supports the preservation of lasting peace and security, including in Asia, on the basis of the joint efforts of all the countries of the continent. As L.I. Brezhnev stated in his interview with the newspaper ASAHI: "Our country has been and remains historically, economically and geographically, indissolubly linked with the Asian Continent. We naturally display serious interest in strengthening peace in this part of the world." In the general discussions and the speeches by the representatives of many developing countries great attention was paid to a discussion of the problem of establishing a new international economic system and of liquidating discrimination, diktat and exploitation in international economic relations.

SUHARTO ADDRESSES ASSEMBLY, CITES FOREIGN, HOME POLICY

LD171303Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[Text] Jakarta, 15 March TASS--"Indonesia will continue to pursue an independent and active foreign policy course and develop relations with all states regardless of their sociopolitical system," President Suharto declared at a session of the People's Consultative Assembly. Delivering a report on the government's activity over the 5-year period to the deputies of the supreme organ of state power, the president emphasized that Indonesia intends to continue participating in the nonalined movement and to promote the strengthening of peace and security in Southeast Asia and throughout the world.

Rejecting all forms of colonialism and oppression, the Indonesian Government opposes the racist regimes in southern Africa and supports the just struggle of Arab states and the Palestinian Arab people for the liquidation of the consequences of Israeli aggression, Suharto said.

Dwelling on domestic policy issues, the president pointed out that "despite Indonesia's quite stable development over the past 5-year period, a number of political events have damaged the Indonesian nation." He referred, in particular, to the antigovernment student demonstrations and riots in Jakarta in January 1974 on the eve of the People's Consultative Assembly session.

The delegates to the People's Consultative Assembly session in Jakarta will outline the main directions of the country's foreign and domestic policy and elect the president and vice president for the next 5 years.

ECONOMIC SUBVERSION SOUGHT BY CHINESE IN INDONESIA

BK190330Y Moscow in Indonesian to Indonesia 1330 GMT 13 Mar 78 BK

[Unattributed commentary: "The Same Old Policy"]

[Text] The Indonesian press has lately expressed concern over the Peking leadership's desire to intensify the activities of the Overseas Chinese in Southeast Asia. In meetings held in Peking with representatives of the Overseas Chinese, plans to exploit Overseas Chinese in China's long-term interests were discussed. This policy is diametrically opposed to the national interests of Asian nations which have achieved national liberation.

Everybody knows that Asian countries are striving to consolidate their sovereignty and are calling for peace and detente in Asia. The Chinese leadership, however, has adopted an entirely different foreign policy course. This is supported in Hua Kuo-feng's report before the recent National People's Congress in which he stressed the Chinese Government's adherence to Mao Tse-tung's foreign policy. This policy was always characterized by Chinese interference in the domestic affairs of its southern neighbors in attempts to establish a dominant Chinese influence in those countries. The Indonesian people are, therefore, justifiably apprehensive over Peking's connection with the Overseas Chinese in Indonesia.

MERDEKA daily called on the government to tighten its control over the local Chinese community, which is infiltrated by Chinese agents. BERITA BUWANA daily recently reported the discovery of an illegal organization in Java which performed subversive acts for China. According to the investigation, the organization consisted of 100 illegal immigrants who had been smuggled into Indonesia with the help of the local Chinese. These local Chinese helped their compatriots to establish themselves in Indonesia; obtaining residence permits, identification certificates and other documents.

China's use of Overseas Chinese to impose the Maoist doctrine on its neighbors has created extraordinary concern among the Indonesian people. Of the 21 million Overseas Chinese, about 4 million live in Indonesia. Generally, they are wealthy people engaged in the [words indistinct], banking, brokerage, industrial, hotel and entertainment businesses. Their economic position is very strong. According to press reports, they control one-third of Indonesia's national income, or about $2 billion. Seventy percent of the textile factories in Indonesia are owned by Overseas Chinese. They control two-thirds of Indonesia's trade. In addition to receiving support from Western capitalists in their competition against national entrepreneurs, they also deal illegally with foreign monopolists. Chinese businessmen frequently engage in smuggling and speculation and often resort to bribery. They cleverly enrich themselves by exploiting Indonesian manpower and engaging in illegal practices, and have inflicted substantial losses on the Indonesian economy and hampered its development.

Peking is extremely interested in Chinese capital in Asia because Overseas Chinese transfer part of their profits to the PRC. In speeches given during the recent session of the National People's Congress concerning the plan to build China's military and economic might, the Peking leadership expressed its desire to use the capital of Overseas Chinese. According to press reports, Overseas Chinese capital in Southeast Asia currently amounts to approximately $15 billion. The PEOPLE'S DAILY openly stated that Peking expects help from the vast majority of Overseas Chinese who, as that paper put it, have a patriotic duty.

Peking is hunting down Chinese nationals in Southeast Asia who are not willing to cooperate with Maoist elements. It has also stepped up its subversive propaganda by mobilizing the Chinese community and its agents to distribute Chinese newspapers and brochures to Overseas Chinese in Indonesia. Although Indonesia has often issued warnings concerning these activities, Peking has continued to increase them.

By intensifying efforts to establish fifth columns among Overseas Chinese in independent countries, the Peking leadership poses a danger to the sovereignty, independence and security of those countries and threatens peace in Asia. It is, therefore, justified that a number of Asian leaders have reacted against Peking's manipulations. As stressed in a statement recently issued by the Indonesian Foreign Affairs Department, any restoration of diplomatic relations with Peking is viewed in Jakarta with skepticism. The Foreign Affairs Department statement said that China has not demonstrated any readiness to abandon its Maoist concepts, and this would inevitably harm Indonesia's vital interests.

AUSTRALIAN SOCIALIST PARTY DISCUSSES ECONOMIC ISSUES

LD171109Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[Correspondent O. Skalkin dispatch: "Urgent Problems Examined"]

[Text] Sydney, 15 March--An Australian Socialist Party Central Committee plenum has been held here. Australia's urgent economic problems and the distribution of political forces following last December's parliamentary elections were discussed. Questions concerning the preparations for the next Australian Socialist Party Congress, which is planned to open at the end of September, were also examined.

The plenum adopted the resolution "to develop the people's movement against the monopolies," which points to the intensified offensive by rightist forces in the country. The Liberal-Country Party coalition government, the document states, seeks the reduction of workers' wages and is creating a crisis in the social security, education and public health systems. The government has proved unable to end the economic crisis: Trade is stagnating, the currency is unstable, and unemployment has reached a record level.

The positions of the transnational companies in the country are strengthening. In order to protect the living standards and the democratic rights of the Australian working people from encroachments by the right, the Australian Socialist Party Central Committee appealed to many Australians to pool the efforts of everyone to whom peace and Australia's national independence are dear.

U.S.-KOREAN MANEUVERS END, AFTEREFFECTS ANALYZED

LD180905Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1252 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tokyo--The 11-day "Team Spirit-78" maneuvers involving American and S. Korean troops ended in South Korea today. These were the biggest maneuvers in this area since WW II. The exercises included 107,000 servicemen, of whom 42,000 were American soldiers and officers. An alarming peculiarity of the maneuvers was the deployment of an enormous amount of equipment designed for a nuclear strike--Lance missiles, U.S. 7th Fleet ships and detachments of fighterbombers. The objective of the exercises was to develop joint air, sea and land operations "in the event of emergency situations arising on the Korean Peninsula." The main role was given to American units deployed in South Korea as well as in the United States and its military bases in Japan and in the Pacific. They were airlifted to the exercise area.

The demonstration of strength by the American and Seoul military leaders on the Korean Peninsula has caused legitimate alarm in Asia, especially among the states that border South Korea. The North Korean press has labeled these maneuvers "provocatory" and likely to cause tension in that region. The Japanese MAINICHI newspaper writes that the U.S.-ROK exercises discredit the assurances concerning the "military exodus of the United States from Asia" and confirm the further build-up by the United States of its military power in this part of the world. They have shown that the Pentagon is actually in control of the armed forces of its Asian allies.

JSP CONVENTION ENDS, ACTION PROGRAM PUBLISHED

OW171137Y Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 16 Mar 78 OW

[Text] The 42d Japan Socialist Party [JSP] convention ended 16 March after adopting a program for 1978 which proposes as a major political task the upholding of the democratic provisions of the Japanese Constitution and the elimination of discrimination by the government and monopoly capitalists against Japanese reformist forces.

The convention participants stressed that efforts should be made to expand the ranks of the comrades struggling against the militarization of Japan, the Japan-U.S. security treaty, the existence of U.S. bases in Japan, and to force the government to pursue a policy leading to peace. The participants also stressed that efforts should be made to further consolidate the unity of the Japanese working class which is fighting for its rights and interests. They adopted a special resolution outlining a concrete action program for increasing JSP activities during this year's spring labor offensive and during the coming elections.

JAPANESE BEGIN CAMPAIGN SUPPORTING ATOMIC BOMB VICTIMS

LD170732Y Moscow TASS in English 0703 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tokyo, March 17, TASS--Over six thousand Japanese peace champions who came from all over the country took part in a mass meeting at Tokyo's Hibiya park. The meeting marked the beginning of a campaign in support of persons who suffered from the U.S. atomic bombings.

The participants in the meeting voiced determination to demand that the government at the current parliament session adopt a special law on rendering an effective aid to them. After the meeting the peace champions marked in columns outside the Japanese parliament building, chanting their demands.

MORE REPUBLICAN LEGISLATURES APPROVE DRAFT CONSTITUTIONS

LD171854 [Editorial Report LD/WA] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1750 GMT on 16 March reports that "the presidiums of the supreme soviets of Belorussia and Estonia have held sessions at which their draft constitutions were examined. Reports were delivered by Masherov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Belorussian CP Central Committee, and Kobin, first secretary of the Estonian CP Central Committee--both of whom are chairmen of supreme soviet commissions for preparing the drafts. The presidiums of the supreme soviets of the Belorussian and Estonian soviet socialist republics have approved the draft constitutions. It has been decided to submit them to all the people in the republics for discussion. Decrees were also adopted convening extraordinary sessions of the Belorussian and Estonian supreme soviets."

At 1530 GMT on 17 March, the radio reports that "sessions of the commissions for preparing draft constitutions of the Uzbek, Moldavian, Latvian, Tadzhik and Turkmen republics were held today. The reports on the draft constitutions were made by Rashidov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Uzbek CP Central Committee; Bodyul, first secretary of the Moldavian CCP Central Committee; Voss, first secretary of the Latvian CP Central Committee; Rasulov, first secretary of the Tadzhik CP Central Committee; Gapurov, first secretary of the Turkmen CP Central Committee. The presidiums of the respective supreme soviets approved the draft constitutions in essence and decided to present them to all the people for discussion. Decrees were also adopted convening extraordinary sessions of the respective republican supreme soviets."

Finally, another Moscow Radio report on 17 March notes that "a session of the Kazakhstan Supreme Soviet Presidium took place today to discuss the draft constitution of the republic. A report was delivered by Kunayev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, first secretary of the Kazakh CP Central Committee and chairman of the commission for preparing the draft constitution of the Kazakh SSR. The Kazakh Supreme Soviet Presidium adopted a decree approving the draft constitution in essence and decided to present it to all the people for discussion. A decree was adopted convening an extraordinary session of the Kazakh Supreme Soviet for 19 April."

AZERBAIJAN RECEIVES CHALLENGE RED BANNER 17 MAR

LD171938Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1530 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Azerbaijan today received the Challenge Red Banner of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU and the Komsomol Central Committee. The republic was given the award for its results in socialist competition in 1977.

Speaking at the festive meeting in Baku, Aliyev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Azerbaijan CP Central Committee, expressed heartfelt thanks to the CPSU Central Committee, the Soviet Government and Leonid Ilich Brezhnev for their high appreciation of the republic's achievements. The participants in the meeting declared that the working people will achieve more successes in implementing the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress.

IZVESTIYA REPORTS DECISION ON ROSTROPOVICH'S CITIZENSHIP

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian on 16 March page 3 carries an unattributed report entitled "Ideological Degenerates" on the decision to strip Mstislav Rostropovich and Galina Vishnevskaya of USSR citizenship. Comparison with the Moscow TASS English version published in the 16 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, page R 1, reveals the following variations:

Page R 1, IZVESTIYA version omits first graf and begins with second paragraph, line one... having left on...

Paragraph three, line two reads...because in fact ideological degenerates engaged in activities...

AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

RADIO REPORTS AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS FOR 13-19 MAR

LD190650 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1900 GMT on 13 March carries the first reports of sowing being completed in the fields of Uzbekistan. Most of the oblasts in the republic are sowing lucerne seeds and the corn growers have taken out their sowing machines earlier than last year. This year the republic's farmworkers intend to grow a record grain crop harvest of 80 quintals per hectare.

At 0530 GMT on 15 March, the radio notes that according to the Tadzhikistan Central Statistical Administration, spring crops have been sown on 40,000 hectares in the republic and perennial grasses have been sown on several thousand hectares in Kazakhstan.

At 0200 GMT on 17 March, the radio says that sowing has begun in Issyk-Kulskaya Oblast, which is earlier than ever before thanks to good weather and the timely overhauling of equipment. Sowing is to be over in 10-12 days.

At 0800 GMT on 17 March, the radio reports that grain crops sowing has begun in Stavropolskiy Kray. Over 2 million hectares are being devoted to winter and spring grain crops, and the harvest target is 2.5 million tons.

At 1200 GMT on 18 March, the radio reports that corn sowing has begun in Turkmenia. About 12,000 hectares of irrigated land will be sown to corn this year. Fieldwork has also begun in many parts of Zaporozhskaya Oblast.

At 0500 GMT on 19 March, the radio reports that warm days have enabled farmers everywhere in the Kuban to begin fieldwork. Some 5,000 units are sowing early cereals today. In Kazakhstan, 50,000 hectares have been sown. In Dzhezkazganskaya, Chimkentskaya and Alma-Atinskaya oblasts, selective sowing of early cerals and perennial grasses is being carried out. In Taldy-Kurganskaya Oblast, presowing work has begun. In the Checheno-Ingushkaya ASSR early vegetables sowing was completed today in record time.

Further Report

LD181757Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 18 Mar 78 LD

[Summary] Spring fieldwork is progressing daily in southern USSR. The first tens of thousands of hectares have been sown to early spring crops, and fields are being prepared for the sowing of late crops. Vegetation of grain crops and perennial grasses has started, and feeding is in progress.

Rural workers are striving for good harvests. Feeding of winter crops with mineral fertilizers has been carried out on 15 million hectares, which is more than last year. The Kuban is completing crop feeding on 1.8 million hectares. Front-ranking farms are carrying out feeding in two phases: the first is being done on the surface using planes immediately after snow leaves the fields; the second is being done at root level before shooting starts, in conditions of well-moistened soil. This two-phase feeding increases grain yield by 9-10 quintals per hectare--that is, twice as much as that obtained from usual early spring feeding.

Many regions are applying the Ipatovo method of organizing spring sowing. Thus there will be 2,240 integrated teams working in Rostovskaya Oblast this spring. In areas where spring fieldwork has not yet started, rural workers are striving to complete sowing preparations.

The country's kolkhozes and sovkhozes have now taken around 600 million tons of organic matter out onto the fields, which is considerably more than last year. Farms are receiving enough seeds to fulfill the spring crops sowing plan and have prepared them well. Over 96 percent of the country's grain crop seeds have been approved; over 81 percent of these are first and second class. In some oblasts, however, such as Kurskaya and Ulyanovksaya oblasts, not all seeds have been brought up to high standard.

Repair rates for all the machinery pool are considerably better than last year: 88 percent of tractors and 95 percent of plows, sowing machines and cultivators are ready. A number of regions have already completed repairs on combines and other harvesting machinery. Repairs on the powerful K-700 and K-701 tractors have not been satisfactory in Tambovskaya, Orenburgskaya and other oblasts in the RSFSR, as well as in Kazakhstan. Many oblasts' selkhoztekhnika associations have organized mobile teams with exchangeable units to accelerate repair work. Mutual inspection of sowing preparations has become widespread; this enables deficiencies to be exposed and eliminated in time.

KUNAYEV ADDRESSES KAZAKH CONFERENCE ON AGRICULTURE

AU1717347 Alma Ata Domestic Service in Russian 1512 GMT 17 Mar 78 AU

[Summary] The republic-level conference of agricultural workers today continued its proceedings in the Lenin palace in Alma Ata. Comrade Kunayev, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and Kazakh CP Central Committee first secretary, and Kazakh CP Central Committee Bureau members and candidate members, obkom first secretaries and front-ranking farm specialists, were present in the presidium. The debate continued on the report by Comrade Kunayev on the tasks of the republic's agricultural workers to further increase the output and purchases of farm produce in 1978 in light of the decisions of the December 1977 CPSU Central Committee Plenum and of the theses and conclusion contained in the speech at the plenum by Comrade Brezhnev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary and USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium chairman.

"Comrade Kunayev, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and Kazakh CP Central Committee first secretary, delivered a concluding speech. He pointed out that a very useful exchange of views took place at the conference, which once again brilliantly manifested the feelings of common and very deep responsibility for accomplishing the 1978 tasks, primarily in the sphere of agriculture. The comrades who spoke in the debate voiced well grounded criticism and made a number of concrete proposals and remarks, the implementation of which will make it possible to substantially increase the effectiveness of farm production and improve our work quality so that it better befits the spirit of the times and the requirements of the 25th party congress and the December 1977 CPSU Central Committee Plenum. In my opinion, Comrade Kunayev emphasized, the republic's ministries, organizations and departments would be well a advised to examine the proposals made and to efficiently comply with them in line with the national economic plan. It is our task to make use of the reserves and possibilities available to resolutely eliminate shortcomings and raise the effectiveness of our (?farming) everywhere. In response to Leonid Ilich Brezhnev's warm greetings, it is our foremost duty to mark the third year of the 5-year plan with high efficient shock work in all areas of the economy, science and culture; to present our beloved fatherland with full-weight Kazakh grain, to confidently insure further development in all stock-breeding branches and to make our own party and the people of the great land of the soviets greatly rejoice at the Kazakh people's future accomplishments. The conference participants adopted an appeal to all sovkhoz and kolkhoz farmers, farm specialists and all Kazakhstan's working people. To stormy and prolonged applause, the conference participants unanimously adopted a letter to Comrade Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium chairman. The republic-level conference of agricultural workers has completed its proceedings."

COSMOS-995 LAUNCHED; EQUIPMENT FUNCTIONING NORMALLY

LD171601Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1545 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow--Another satellite, Cosmos-995, was launched in the Soviet Union today to continue the exploration of space. The initial orbiting period of the satellite is 89.1 minutes; maximum distance from earth surface: 262 km; minimum distance: 221 km; inclination of the orbit: 81.4 degrees.

The satellite's equipment is functioning normally.

[Moscow TASS in English at 1700 GMT on 17 March renders the figure for the initial orbiting period of the satellite as 98.1 minutes.]

SCIENTIST FORESEES YEAR-LONG SPACE FLIGHTS

LD171342Y Moscow TASS in English 1321 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 17 TASS--"Man can live and work in outer space for over a year". This conclusion was made by Soviet scientists after summing up the preliminary results of the 36-day orbital flight made by flier Yuriy Romanenko and Flight Engineer Georgiy Grechko. Professor Anatoliy Yegorov who heads the medical group of the Flight Control Centre, singled out four factors that warranted such an optimistic conclusion. "Throughout the flight", he said to TASS, "the cosmonauts retained high creative interest in scientific research and experimental work. They carried out over 50 major planned investigations and approximately as many at their own initiative."

"The cosmonauts displayed an amazing spirit of creativity and capacity for work," he said.

As a second factor Professor Yegorov mentioned correct forecasting by specialist of the effects of weightlessness on the human body, and means of neutralizing them. A large dose of physical exercises and loads the crew got on the running track, veloergometer as well as the use of the load suit Penguin and the suit Chibis which coordinate blood flow in the body to bring it closer to that one has on earth--are some of the measures which predetermined the good condition of Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko.

The third factor which contributed to the success of the long space flight was that they had a comfortable home in outer space where they could even take a shower. The station was regularly visited by Soyuz ships and the Progress freight ship which supplied the crew with fresh food, water and fruit. The visits paid to the station by the Soyuz-27 and Soyuz-28 crews helped ease the psychological stress of the basic crew.

The fourth factor in Anatoliy Yegorov's opinion was "compatibility". "Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko, men of different age, of different character and habits, cooperated well during the flight. Their enthusiasm for work, mutual trust and respect, and their sense of humour ensured for them the desired spirit of compatibility without which they would have been unable to live and work for such a long time within the close confines of a present-day orbital station," Professor Yegorov said.

CREWS OF SCIENTIFIC STATIONS IN ANTARCTIC REPLACED

LD171905Y Moscow TASS in English 1839 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 17, TASS--It is now autumn in the Antarctic and it has brought along a busy time of replacing the crews of the scientific stations.

The last snowcat convoy has returned from the Soviet base Vostok deep inside the continent to Mirnyy Observatory. This was stated by Vadim Popov, chief of the Antarctic and Arctic Department of the USSR Weather Service. He was speaking in an interview with a TASS correspondent. Six vessels of the Soviet polar flotilla are currently operating in the waters of the ice-bound continent. They have taken aboard explorers from the stations Bellingshausen, Vostok, Novo-Lazarevskaya and Molodezhnaya. Their colleagues from the regular 23rd Soviet Antarctic Expedition are now taking over their scientific work.

The research vessel Mikhail Somov, the flagship of the Soviet fleet operating off the Antarctic coast, has brought supplies for Leningradskaya station and is now replacing its crew. Later she is to go to Australia to take stocks of fresh fruit and meat on board. She will return to the Antartctic later to evacuate the crew of the Molodezhnaya Antarctic Weather Centre. That will mark the end of the working season for the Soviet polar explorers.

Foreign specialists working at the Soviet stations in the Antarctic are also going home. Six scientists from the German Democratic Republic have spent the winter at Novo-Lazarevskaya. The American geophysicist Michael Puncher has also worked there. The Soviet geophysicist Aleksandr Zitsev, for his part, has conducted research at Amundsen-Scott American station close to the South Pole. All of them are taking along large amounts of scientific materials and the fond memories of friendly contacts with their foreign colleagues on the continent of peace.

FIRST SOVIET EXPLORERS ARRIVE AT NEW ARCTIC ICE PLATFORM

LD180020Y Moscow TASS in English 1944 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Leningrad, March 17, TASS--The first team of Soviet polar explorers has landed on a new ice platform in the Arctic Ocean. The platform is an iceberg with an area of about 100 square kilometres and up to 30 metres thick. It has been chosen as a base for yet another research drifting station known as Severny Polyus-24 (North Pole-24). The news was radioed to the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute in Leningrad by the chief of the Sever-30 (North-30) Airborne High-Altitude Expedition, Mikhail Krasnopyorov. He reported that the iceberg first spotted from an ice-monitoring place last autumn had been observed by Soviet polar explorers continuiously since then. At present the iceberg is adrift 330 km north east of Wrangel Island.

Meanwhile, work is under way in Leningrad to form the crew of the future station and to prepare scientific equipment. It is expected that the Soviet flag will be hoisted over Severny Polyus-24 in mid-April. The station will be laid out on a giant flat iceberg, said the well-known polar explorer Aleksey Treshnikov, a corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences. Evidently, it was such "islands" that in the past gave rise to runours about mysterious unexplored "lands" named after Sannikov, Grant, Peterman and Makarov. At present it has been established that such islands are fragments of shelf glaciers from the Canadian Arctic Archepelago, he explained. Professor Treshnikov gave a reminder that Soviet explorers were getting ready to set up a drifing station on a floating platform for the fifth time. The stations SP-6, SP-19, SP-22, and SP-23 were marked by their long service life. The station Severny Polyus-22 set up in September 1973 entered the so-called anti-cyclone drift to make a giant circle around the pole of relative inaccessibility. It is now getting ready to mark its fifth anniversary close to the starting point before going on another round trip.

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